



200 TRUE STORIES TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE!

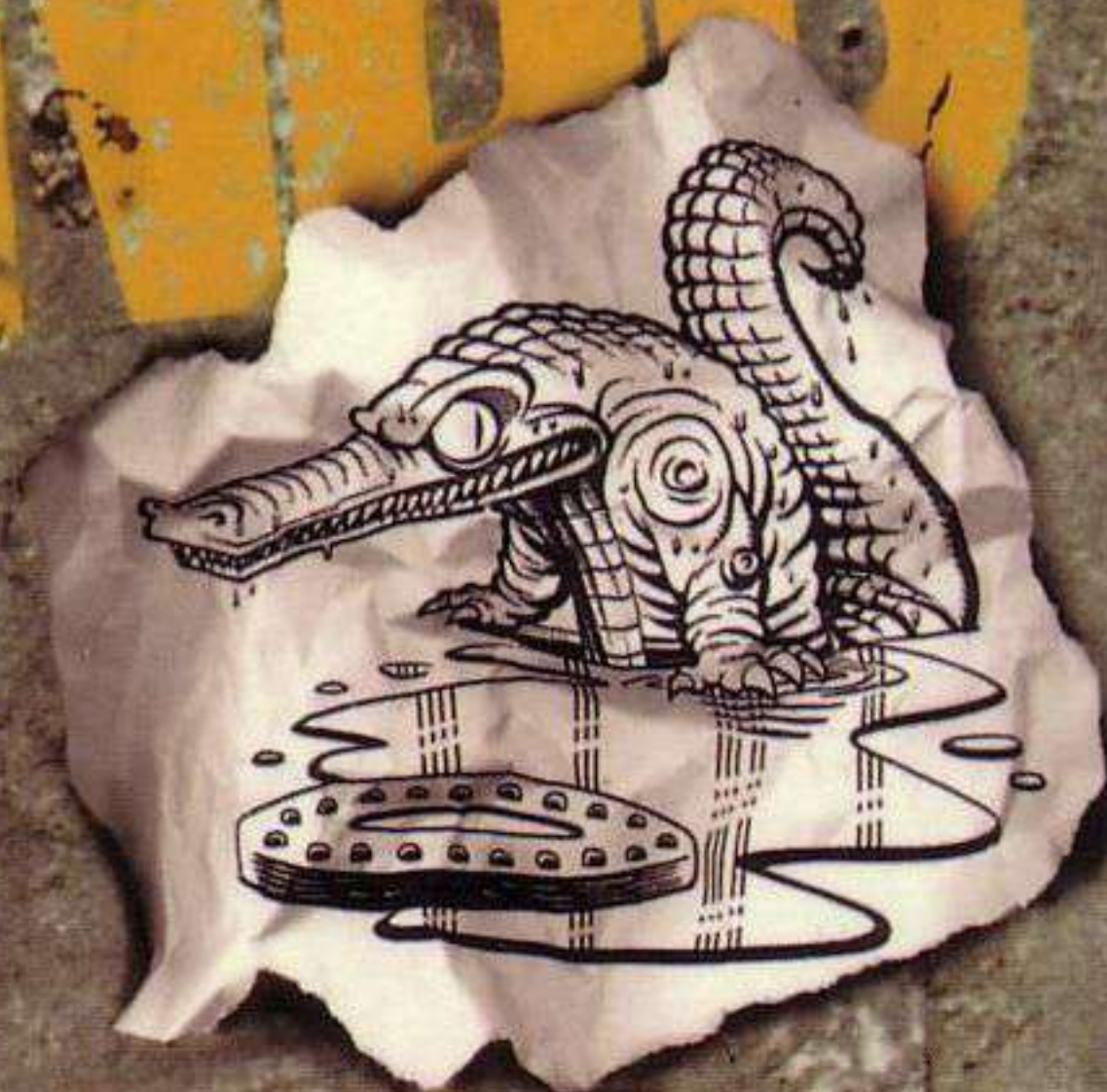
THE BIG BOOK OF URBAN LEGENDS



INTRODUCTION AND
COMMENTARY BY

**JAN HAROLD
BRUNVAND**

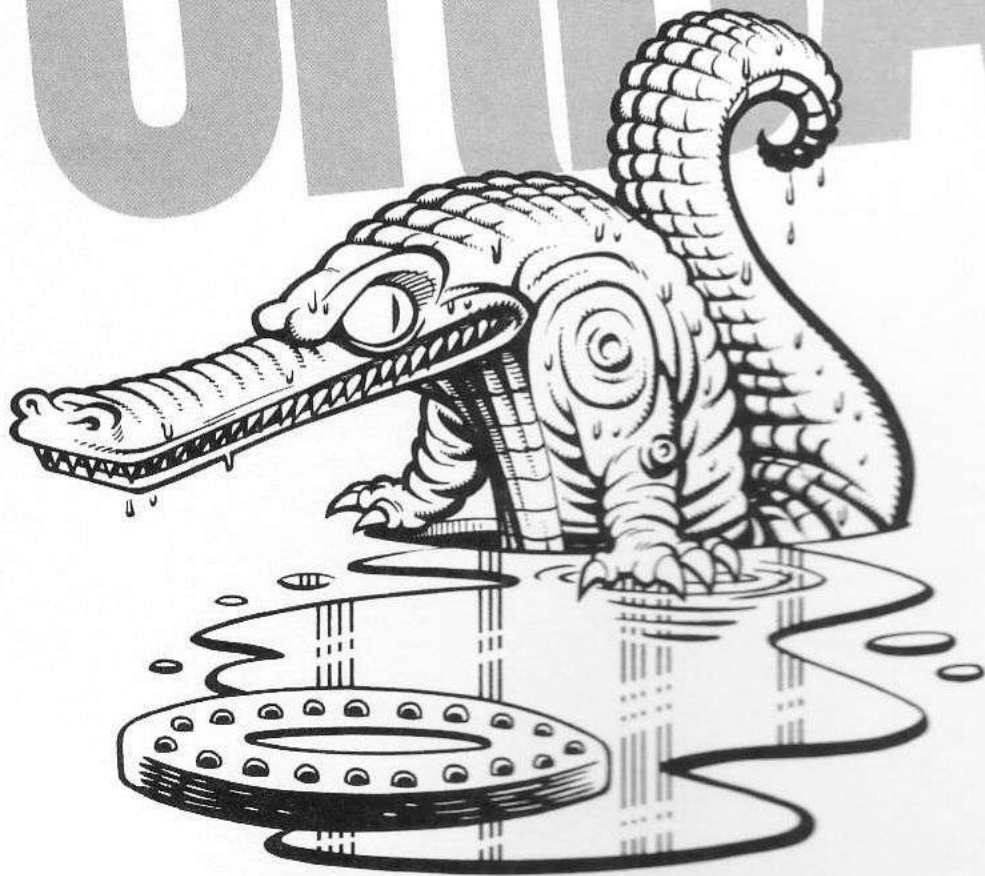
(Best-selling author of
THE VANISHING HITCHHIKER
and THE CHOKING DOBERMAN)



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THE BIG BOOK OF URBAN LEGENDS

ADAPTED FROM THE WORKS
OF JAN HAROLD BRUNVAND
BY ROBERT LOREN FLEMING
AND ROBERT F. BOYD, JR.



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INTRODUCTION

**BY JAN HAROLD
BRUNVAND**

Is this the climax of my career as a folklorist — to see my collections of urban legends turned into comics?

My mother will be puzzled; after all, she tried to improve my mind by throwing out the big stacks of comics that my brothers and I accumulated when we were kids. But my mentor in folkloristics, the late Professor Richard M. Dorson, probably would have approved; after all, he wrote a lavishly illustrated book, *America in Legend*, for the U.S. Bicentennial, breaking his own rule about not popularizing the science of folklore.

But a comic book! Well, why not? After all, comics are just another manifestation of the same popular culture that gives rise to many urban legends in the first place.

Urban legends (UL's, as I sometimes call them) are true stories that are too good to be true, and they are always said to have happened to a Friend of a Friend (or FOAF). The first UL I remember hearing was "The Death Car," the tale of a \$50 Buick cursed with a corpse's stench that the kids in Lansing, Michigan, yearned to locate when I was in high school there in the late 1940s. The first UL that I heard debunked was also "The Death Car" when I took Professor Dorson's "American Folklore" class at Michigan State University in the early 1950s.

I gave up on the \$50 Buick (which later became a \$500 Corvette) and continued my

studies, ending up at Indiana University where I earned a Ph.D. in folklore. Professor Dorson had become the director of the program there, and while helping him to index his book *American Folklore* (1959), I read several versions of a weird little story about a dead cat wrapped in a package. (See "The Dead Cat in a Package" and "Another Dead Cat in a Package" on pages 42 and 43 of this book.) Several months later, the same story appeared as a true incident in the Bloomington, Indiana, *Daily Herald Telephone*.

I clipped the news item, the very first clipping in a file of what were then called "Urban Belief Tales." The more such stories I collected — from oral tradition, the media, students, and from fellow folklorists — the more I wondered *why*, although everyone knew some of these legends, few understood their importance as modern folklore. Gradually, I included more urban legends in my university courses, and eventually I wrote an article on them for *Psychology Today* (June 1980) and proposed a book on the subject to the publisher of my textbook, W.W. Norton & Company.

That book, *The Vanishing Hitchhiker*, appeared in 1981 as a textbook supplement, complete with bibliographic notes, glossary, and guide to self-study of urban legends, but it quickly caught on with the general public and even got me on the David Letterman show. This kicked off an unending series of talk shows, interviews, and queries from journalists trying to verify odd rumors and stories. I hadn't realized that urban legends were so widely told,

nor that they would appeal so strongly to media-saturated Americans.

But urban legends are, indeed, so prevailing as a modern narrative form — second only to dirty jokes, in my opinion — that hundreds of readers immediately began to send me favorite stories that I had left out. Following an editor's suggestion, I had included my full address in *The Vanishing Hitchhiker*.

Furthermore, I was reminded by folklorists of stories I had missed in the scholarly literature, and then I started to hear a suspicious story about a guard dog choking on two fingers bitten off an intruder. Aha! There were both *old* urban legends I had overlooked and *new* urban legends developing. Enough material for a second book.

The Choking Doberman came out in 1984, and again I included my address, not really expecting that many more ULs would appear. When my research showed that the title story was updated from an ancient traditional legend, I started putting "new" in quotation marks when applied to ULs.

I soon had enough stuff from readers to compile *The Mexican Pet* in 1986, titling the book from yet another "new" legend that surfaced in 1983 and soon achieved worldwide popularity. From 1987 to 1992 I wrote a newspaper column syndicated by United Feature; this yielded the latest two of my UL books, *Curses! Broiled Again!* (1989) and *The Baby Train* (1993). In the latter I included my "Type Index of Urban Legends," an outline of the filing system used in my eight story-stuffed drawers.

There is a seemingly inexhaustible supply of these stories, and old legends are constantly being told, changed, retold, and then told again as new. "The Graveyard Wager," for example (see page 67 in this book), is an ancient folktale, but it's still narrated today at campouts and slumber parties as if it really happened recently to some local kids.

And now, a comic book — a natural-enough transition from folklore to popular culture. After all, urban legends, like comics, present stark, clear plots with morals, and they are tremendously popular, despite their low place

on the cultural totem pole. Both genres have given us memorable characters, situations, and even catch phrases ("It's a bird, it's a plane, it's Superman!" versus "I don't know what game you're playing, lady, but I hope your team wins!" — see page 139). But will the 200 urban legends in this book, so vividly illustrated by top comic artists, kill the genre as folklore? Will people now merely *read* the stories and no longer *tell* them?

I doubt it, since I just filed the umpteenth version of the latest descendant of "Red Velvet Cake" (see page 180) taken off a computer net, and a few months ago I heard about a supposed initiation ritual in which gang members drive around with their headlights off, hoping to provoke other drivers to blink at them and invite a "Lights Out" revenge — death! (Rest assured, this has only happened to elusive FOAFs, friends of friends, and never to real people.) Although such stories are now being transmitted via new technologies, they'll probably never become outmoded and disappear.

Folklore, whether age-old or modern, doesn't die out after it's publicized, and I predict a quick response to *The Big Book of Urban Legends* will be letters from readers telling us about stories not included here. Now, *that* would have impressed Professor Dorson.

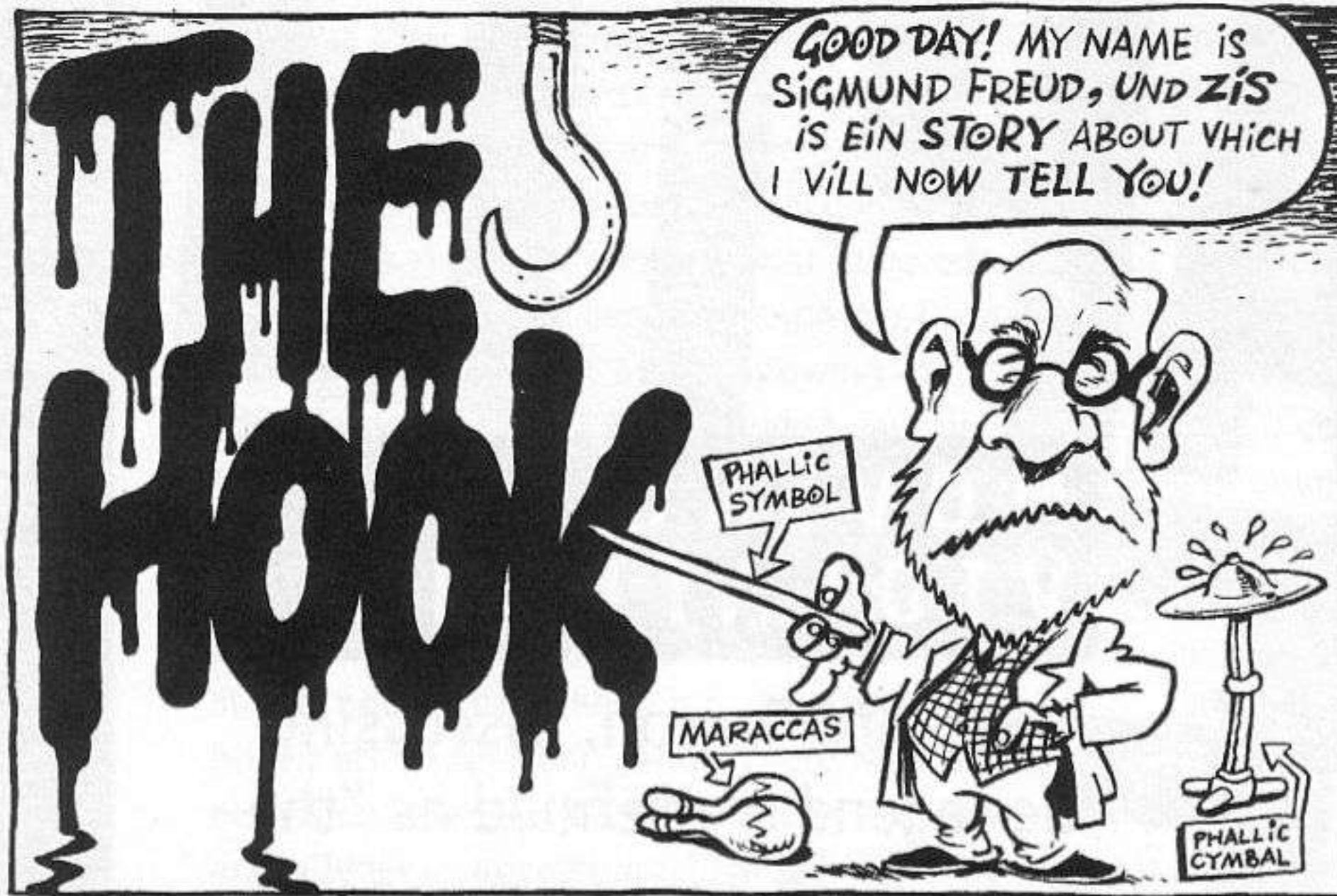
JAN HAROLD BRUNVAND is the author of *The Baby Train*, *Curses! Broiled Again!*, *The Mexican Pet*, *The Choking Doberman*, and *The Vanishing Hitchhiker*, which provided the source material for the stories in this volume. He is a professor of English and folklore at the University of Utah.

CHAPTER ONE

MOVING VIOLATIONS

AUTOMOBILE LEGENDS

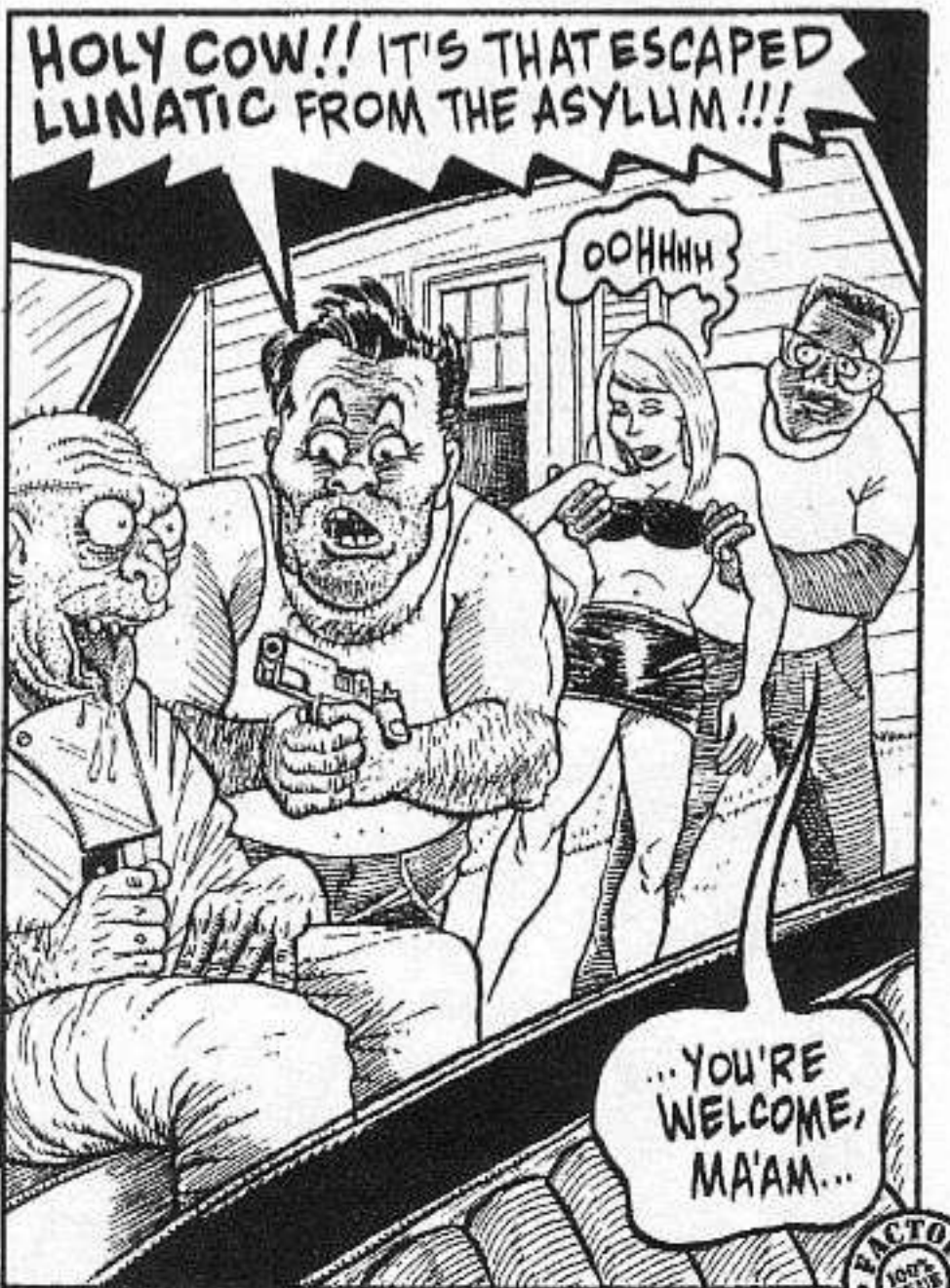
Richard Dorson, discussing the legend — defined as “the story which never happened told for true” — in 1959, mentioned that contemporary legends “fasten particularly onto the automobile, chief symbol of modern America.” Evoking freedom, power, coming-of-age, and more than a hint of sex, the automobile continues to dominate American urban legends, as indeed to affect much of American social life and popular culture as well. So it’s no surprise that a goodly portion of the ULs both in this chapter and scattered through others are about Americans’ love affairs with their cars, as well as about some love affairs conducted partly *in* their cars.



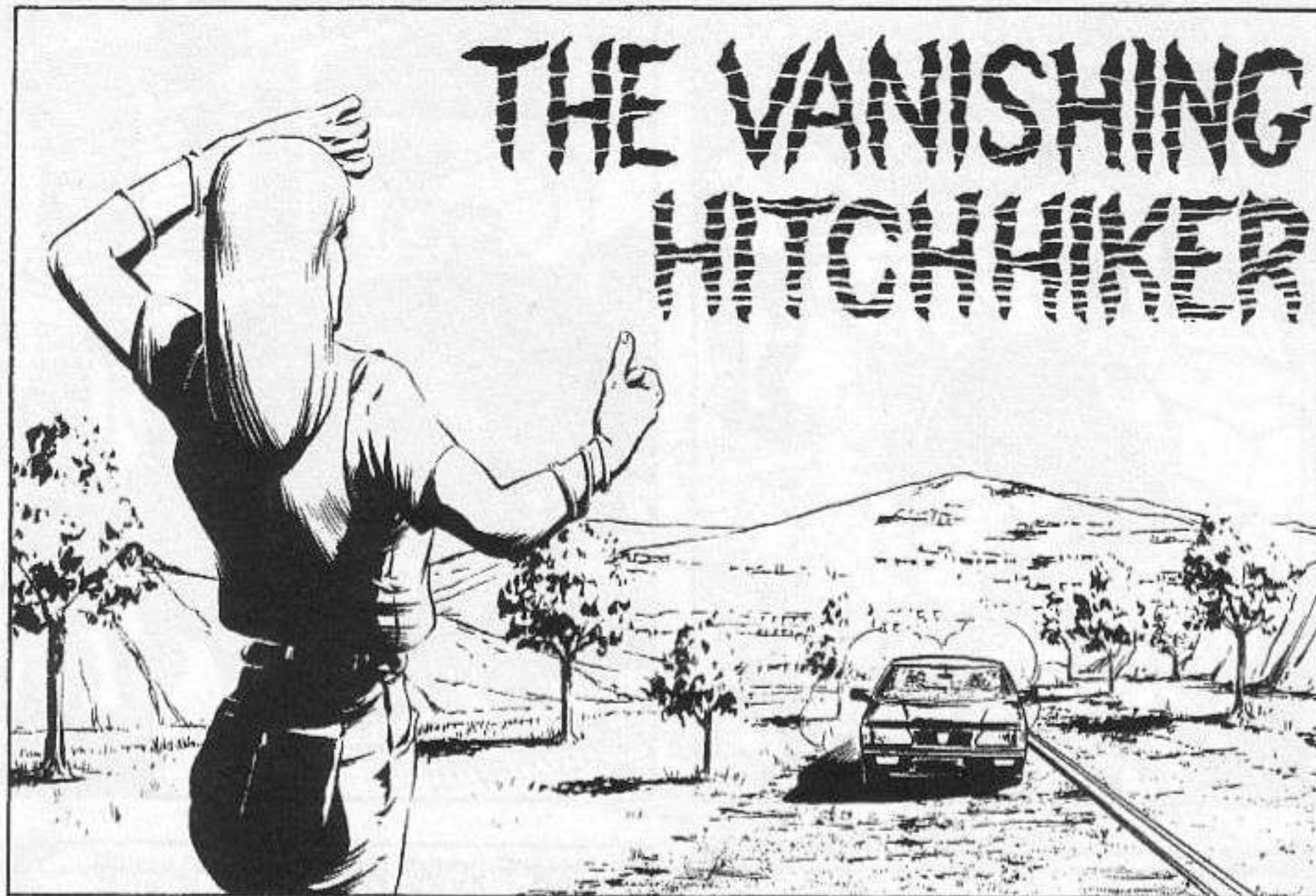
IT BEGINS ON A MOONLIT COUNTRY LANE, WHERE TWO YOUNG LOVERS ARE HAVING ZE LITTLE RENDEZVOUS...



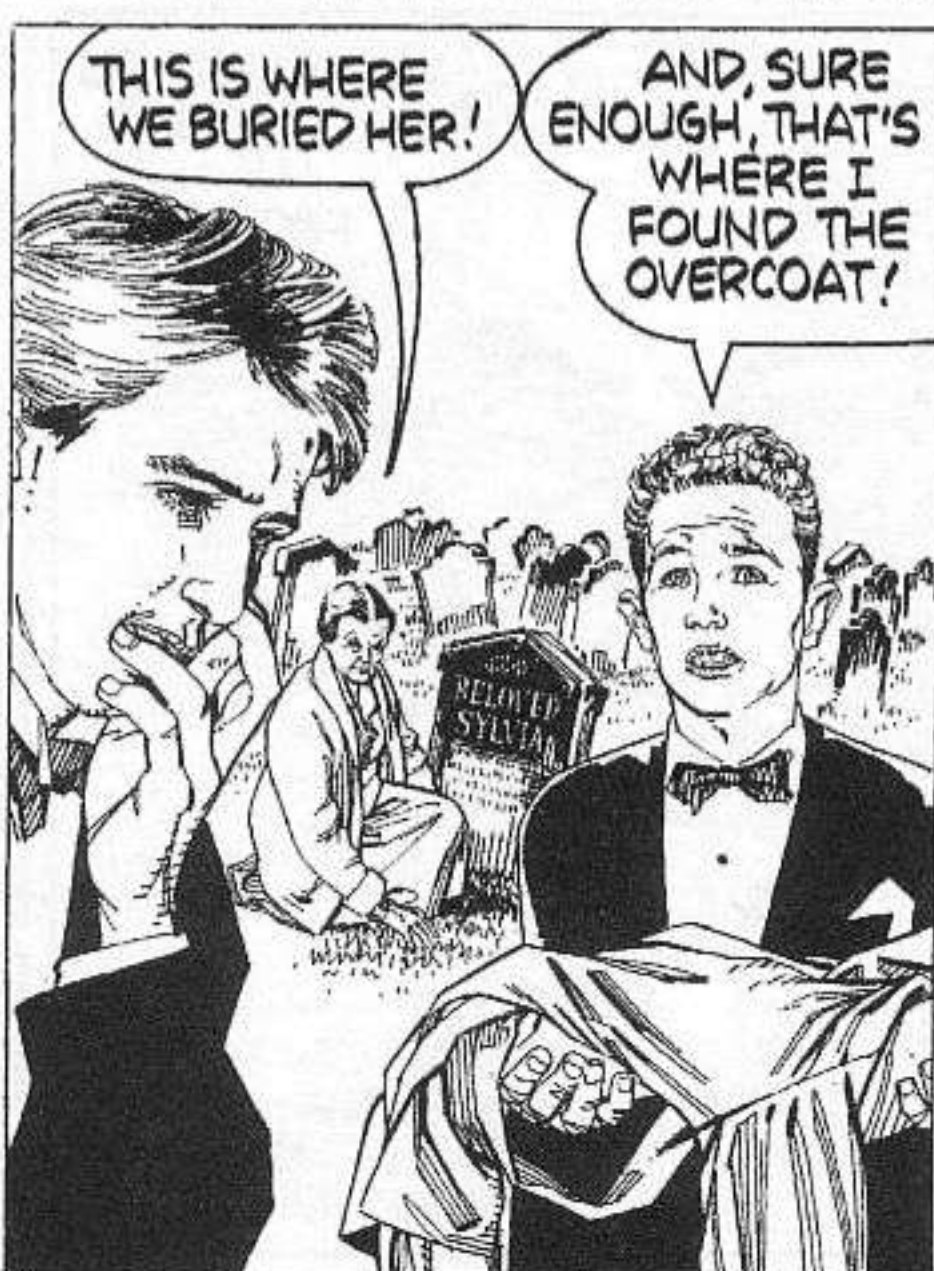
THE KILLER IN THE BACK SEAT

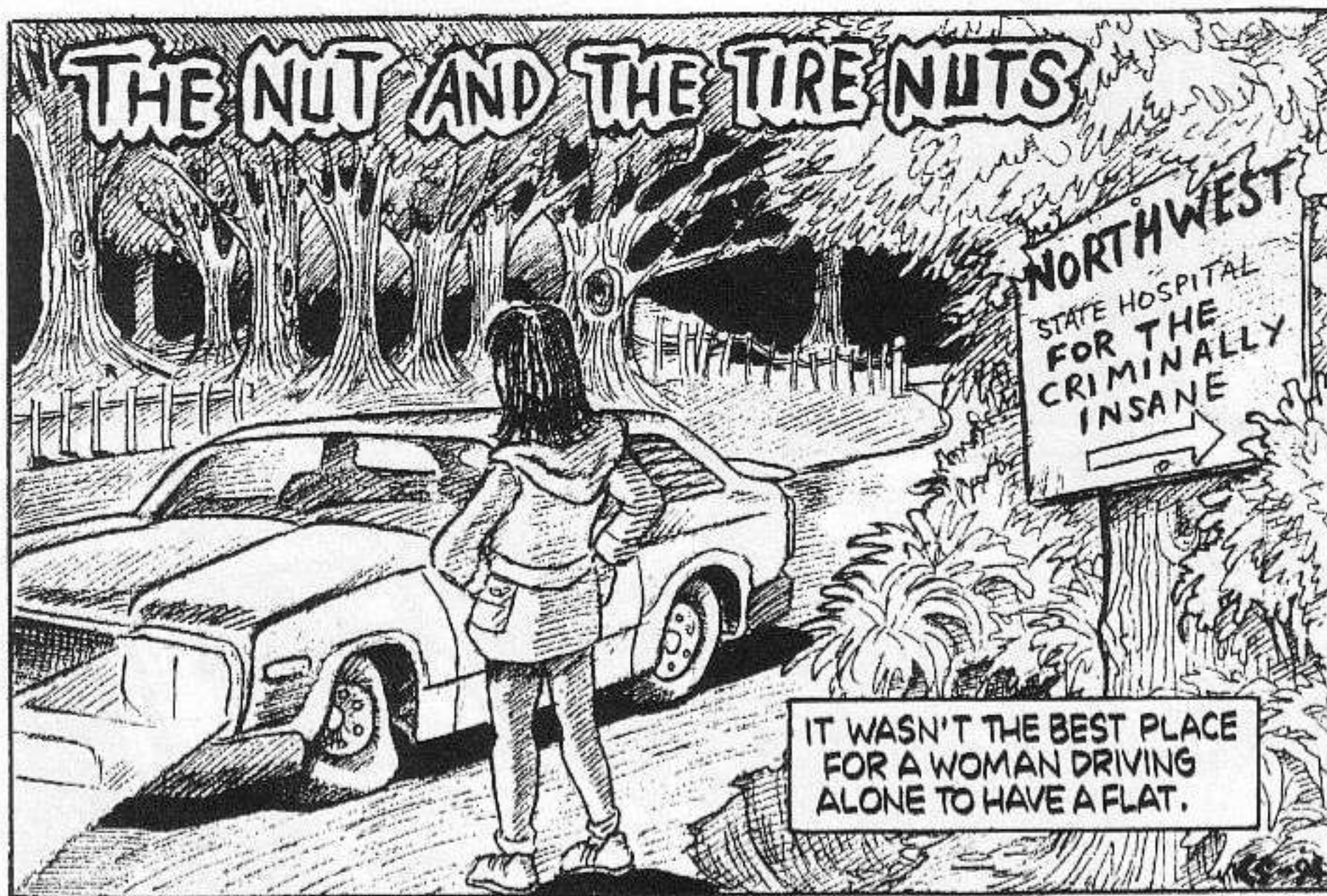


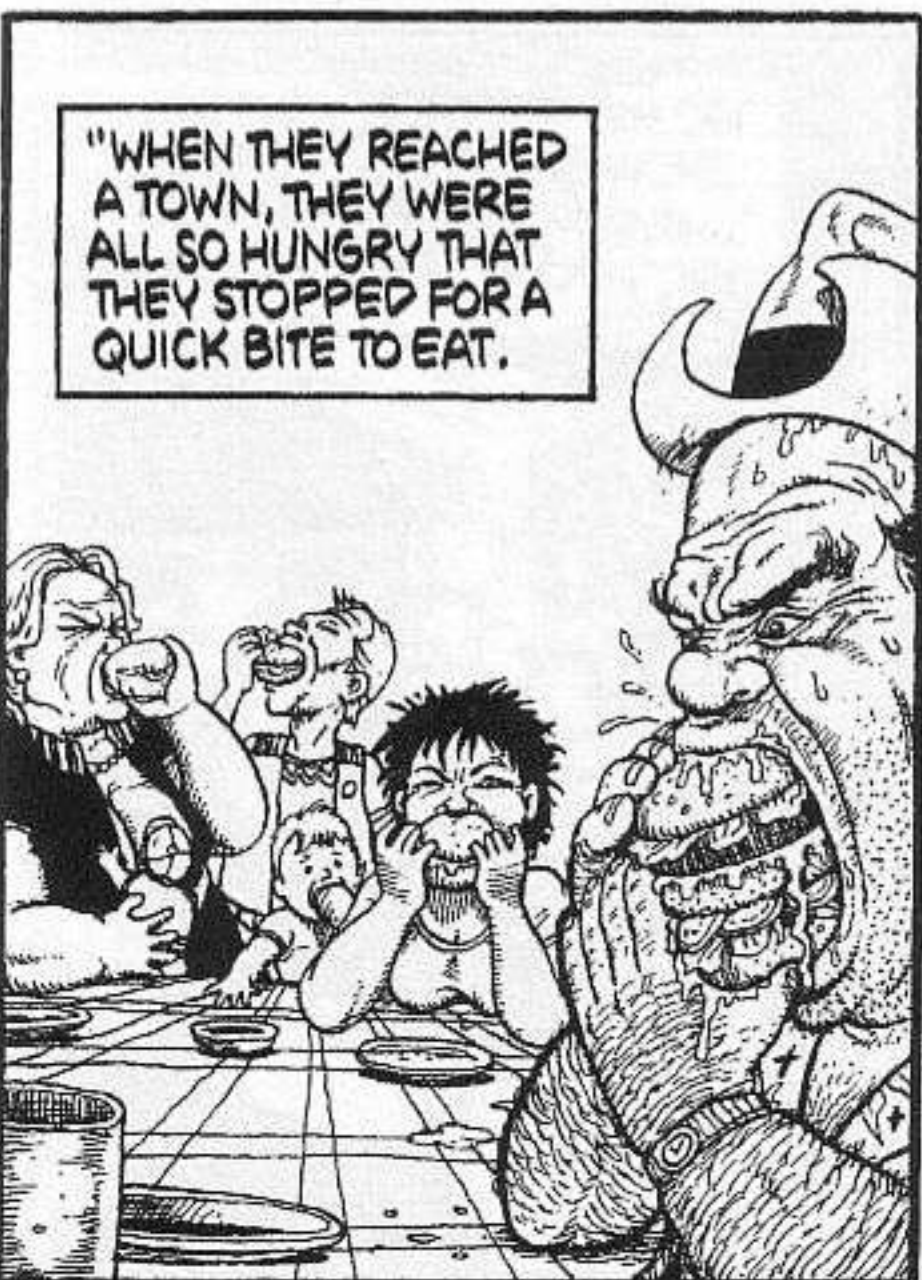
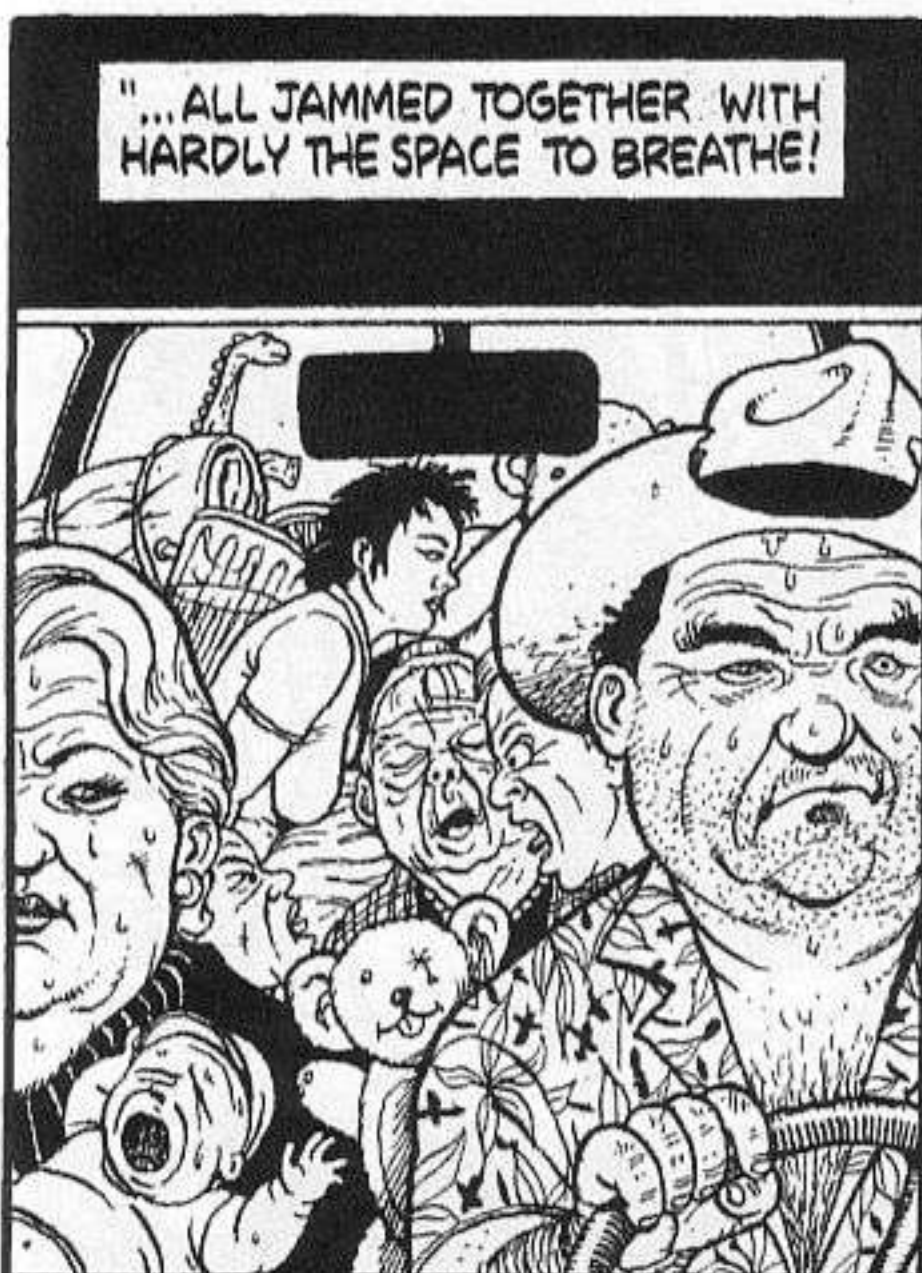
THE VANISHING HITCHHIKER

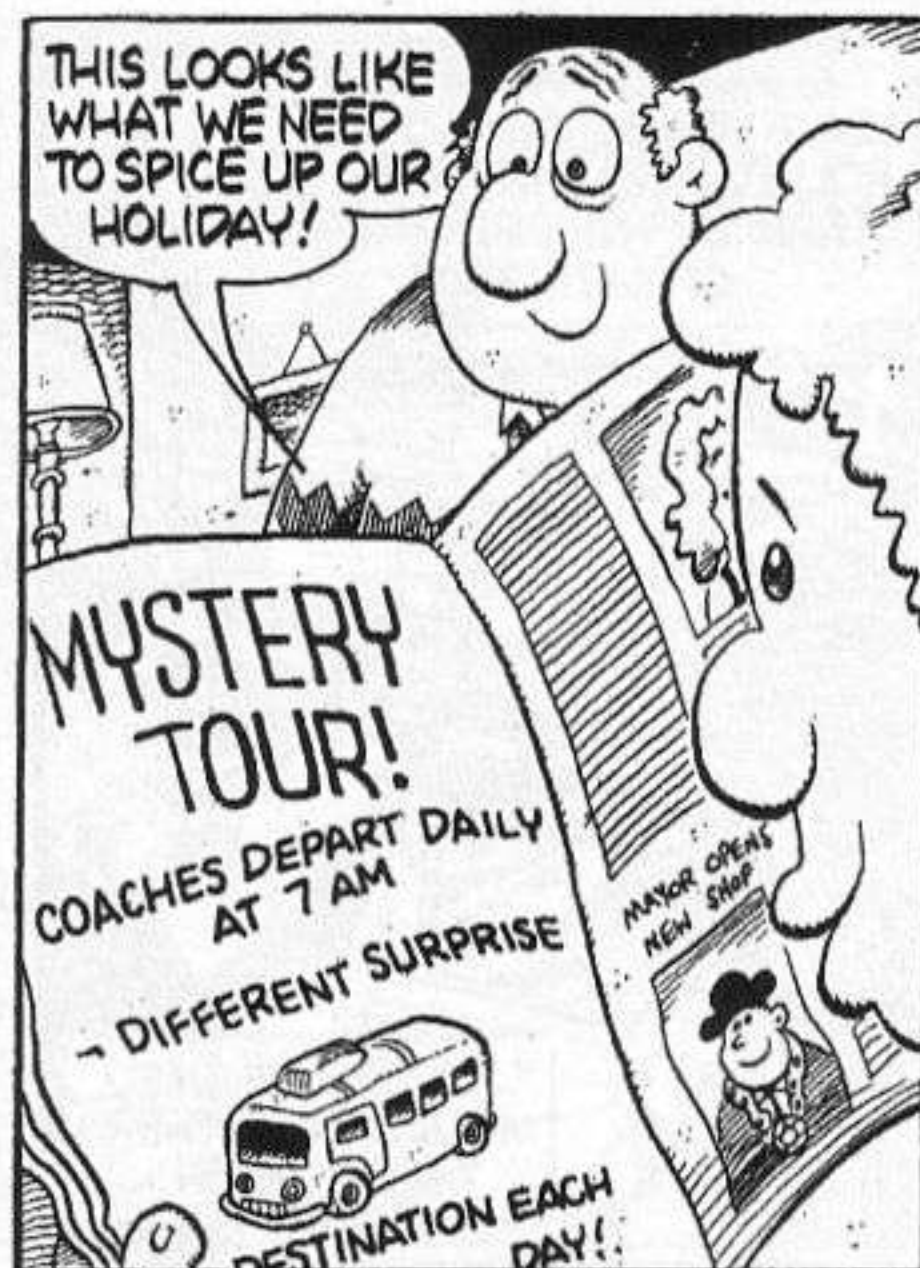
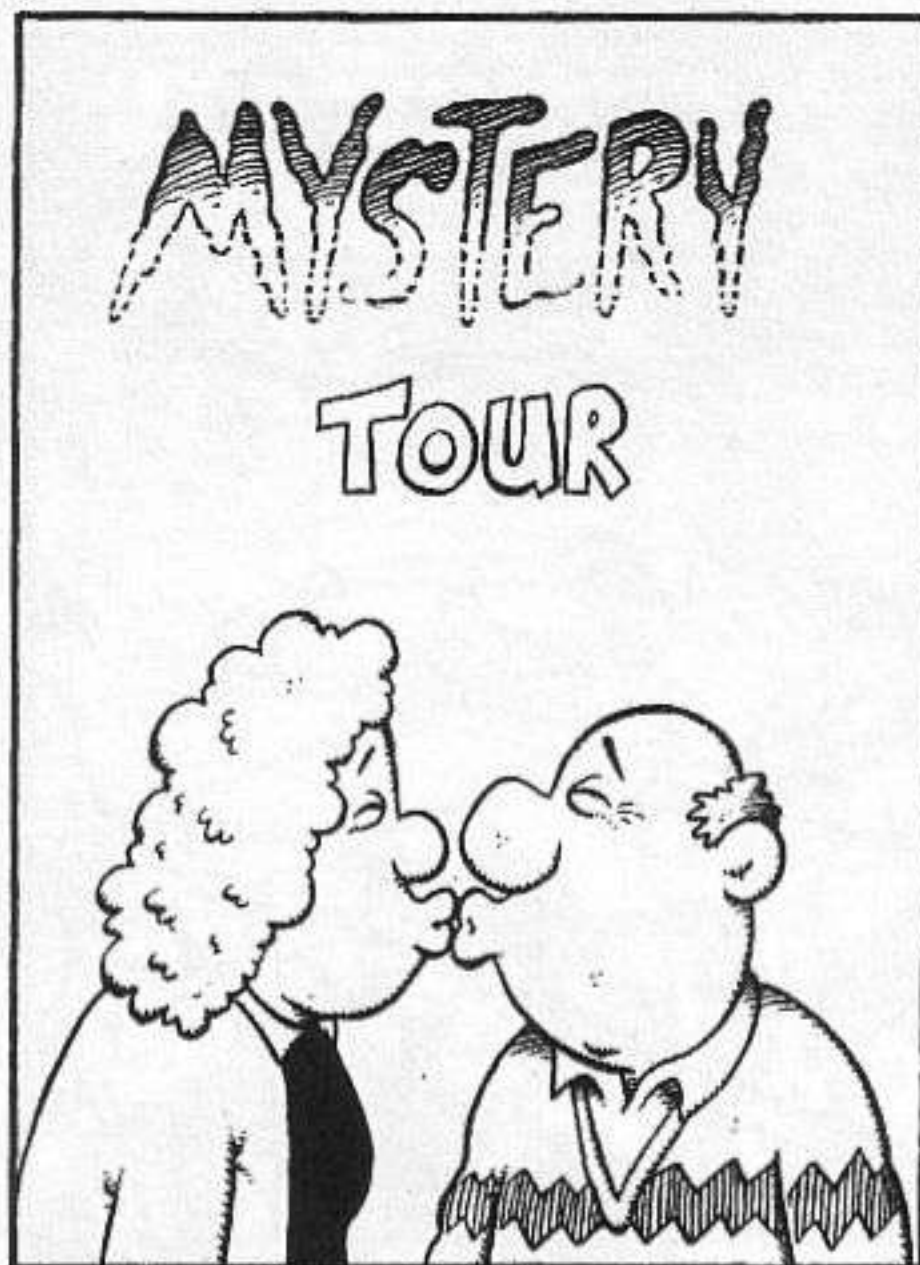


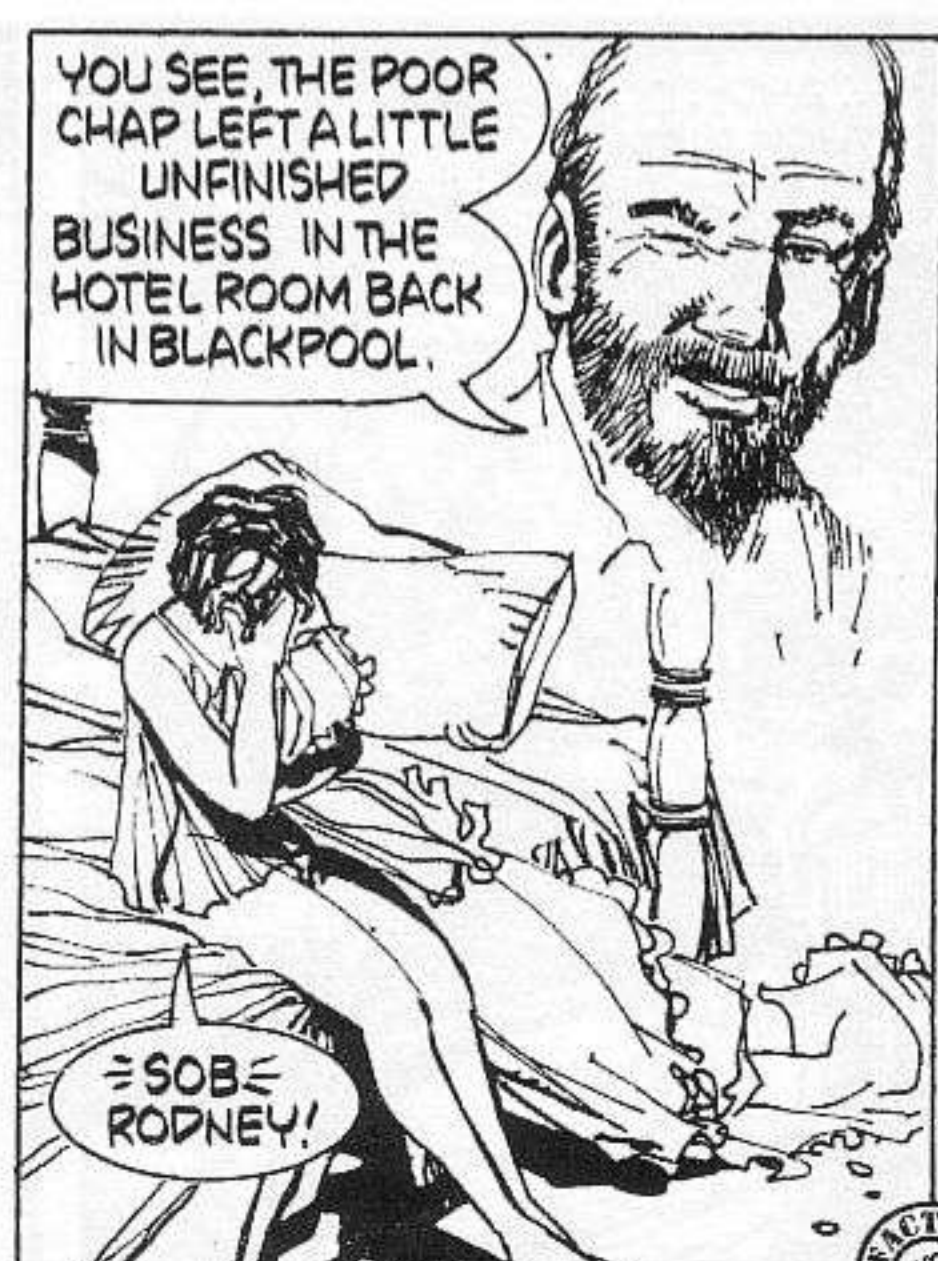
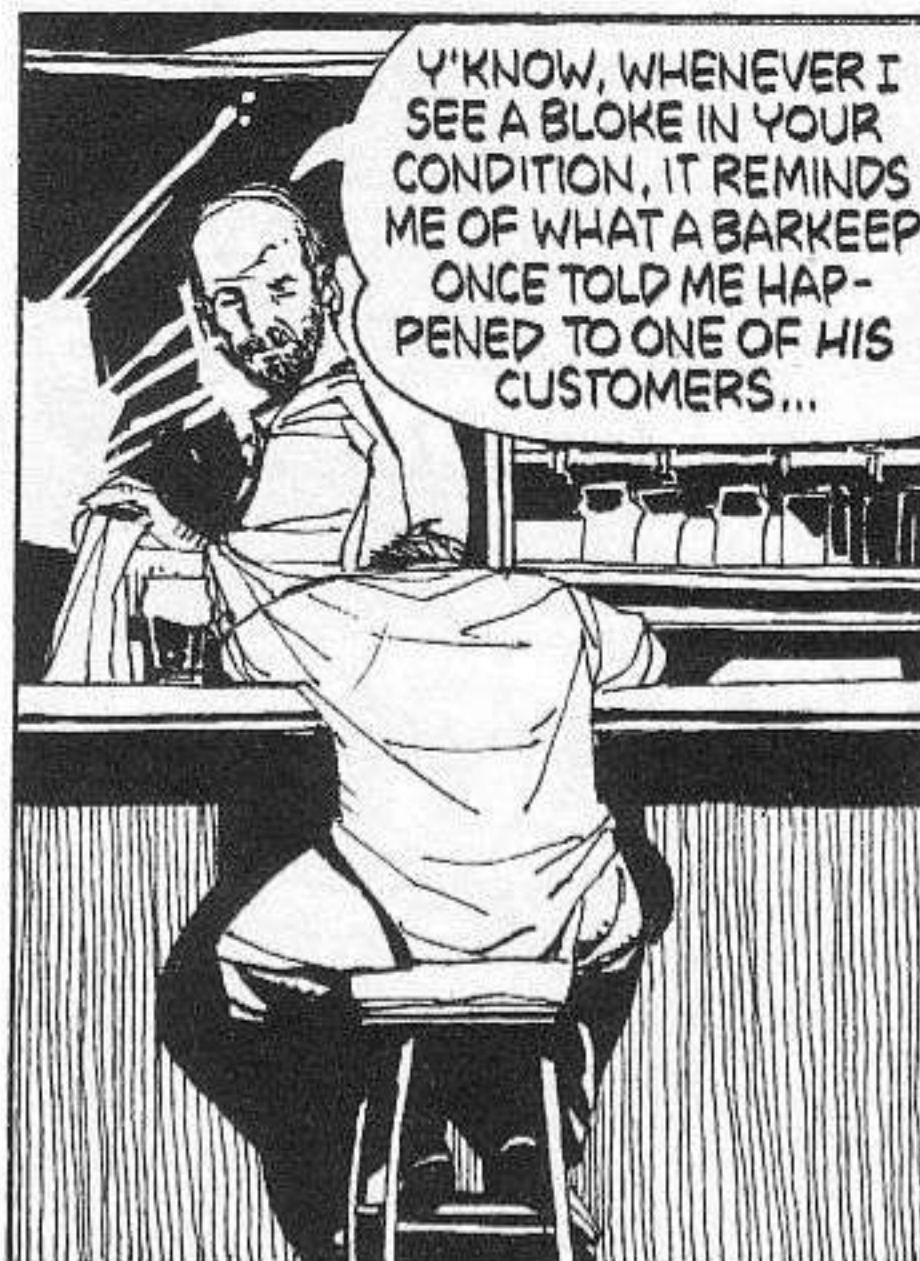
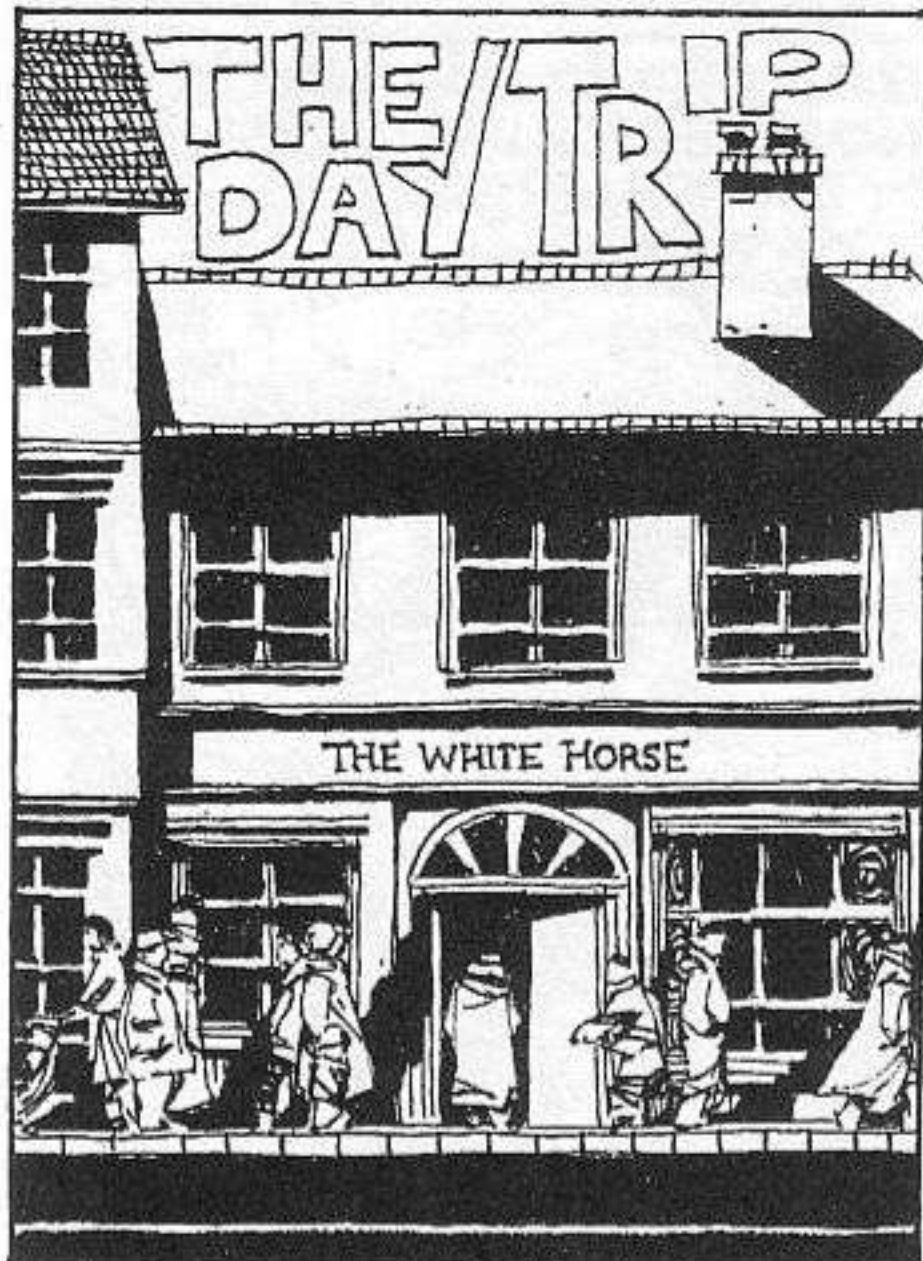
ANOTHER VANISHING HITCHHIKER











THE

UNDER THE CAR!

MY COUSIN DOLORES IS DATING A GUY WHOSE SISTER WAS ATTACKED IN THE PARKING LOT HERE.

HOW TERRIBLE! WHAT HAPPENED?

SOME CREEP HID UNDER HER CAR AND WAITED FOR HER TO COME OUT WITH HER GROCERIES.

NO!

IT'S TRUE!

"SO THE GUY, HE'S IN A GANG OR SOMETHING, HE SLASHES HER ANKLES WHEN SHE'S GETTING HER KEYS OUT!"

"THE TOTALLY CREEPY PART IS HE TAKES HER SHOES. IT'S PART OF SOME INITIATION RITE OR SOMETHING, CAN YOU BELIEVE IT?"

BEE-YOO-TEE-FUL!

WELCOME TO THE CLUB!

YOU CAN'T BE TOO CAREFUL. IT'S LIKE A NATIONAL CRAZE OR SOMETHING!

LAST CHRISTMAS THEY WAS GIFT-WRAPPING THE VICTIMS...

"...AND LOCKING THEM IN THEIR OWN TRUNKS!"

IT'S TRUE!

WELL, I'M NOT TOO WORRIED. THEY'D NEED A CHAINSAW TO GET AT MY ANKLES.

D'OH!

THE SEVERED Fingers

YOU KNOW, THIS LOOKS LIKE A POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS SITUATION!

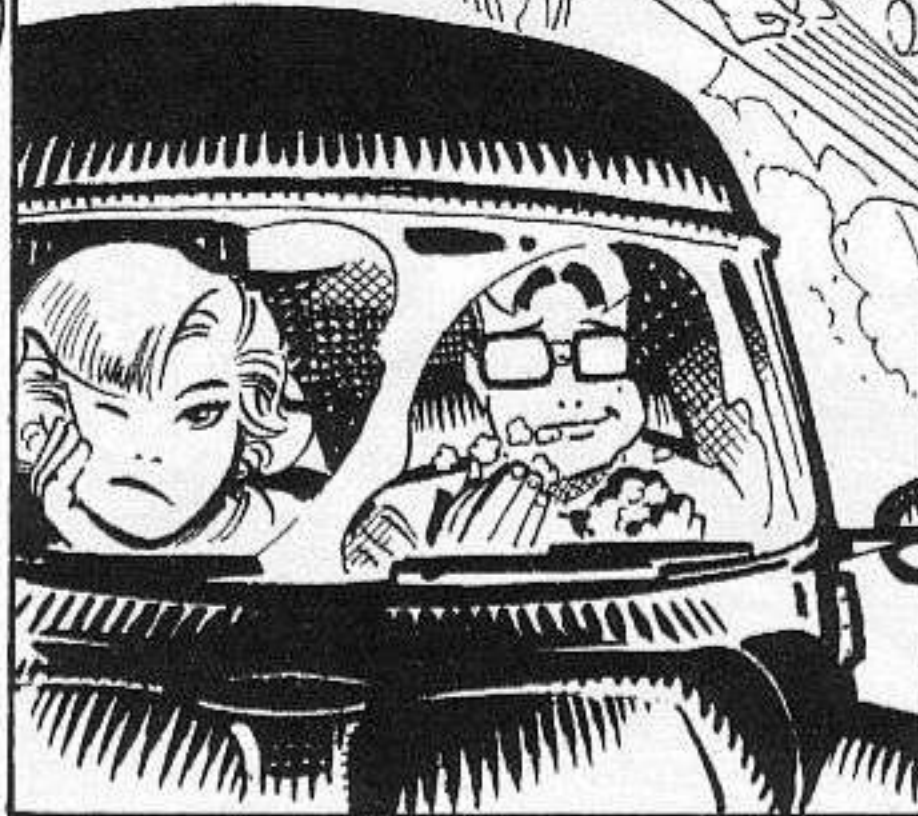
GET LOST, RODNEY!

YEAH, NIMROD, CAN'T YOU SEE WE'RE TRYING TO PLACE A PRIVATE CALL HERE?

TELEPHONE

SERIOUSLY: YOU FELLOWS KID AROUND AND KID AROUND, UNTIL SOMEONE GETS HURT--JUST LIKE THOSE CLOWNS AT THE DRIVE-IN OVER IN EAST AURORA!

"THIS FELLOW LIKE ME WAS OUT ON A DATE AT THE DRIVE-IN. THEY WERE JUST MINDING THEIR OWN BUSINESS AND HAVING SOME GOOD OLD-FASHIONED FUN..."



"... WHEN A CARLOAD OF RUFFIANS CAME ALONG AND DECIDED TO SPOIL THINGS FOR EVERYONE!"



"THEY WERE DRUNK AND ROWDY, SO THE YOUNG FELLOW ADVISED THEM POLITELY, BUT FIRMLY, TO SETTLE DOWN..."



"... AFTER WHICH THINGS REALLY GOT UGLY!"



"THINKING ONLY OF HIS DATE, THE YOUNG MAN GOT HER OUT OF THERE AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE."



"LATER, WHEN HE GOT HOME, HE FOUND THREE BLOODY FINGERS JAMMED BEHIND HIS REAR BUMPER!"



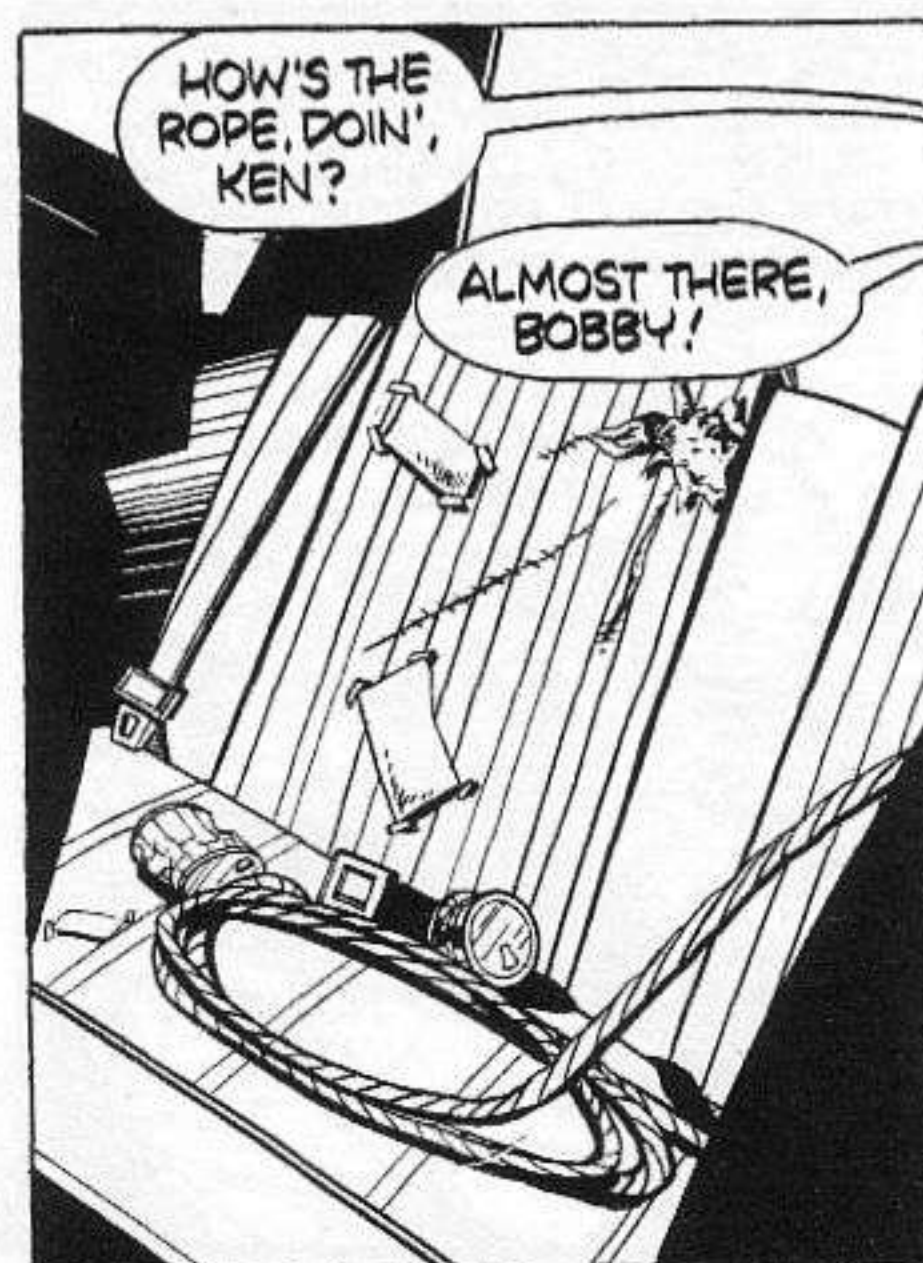
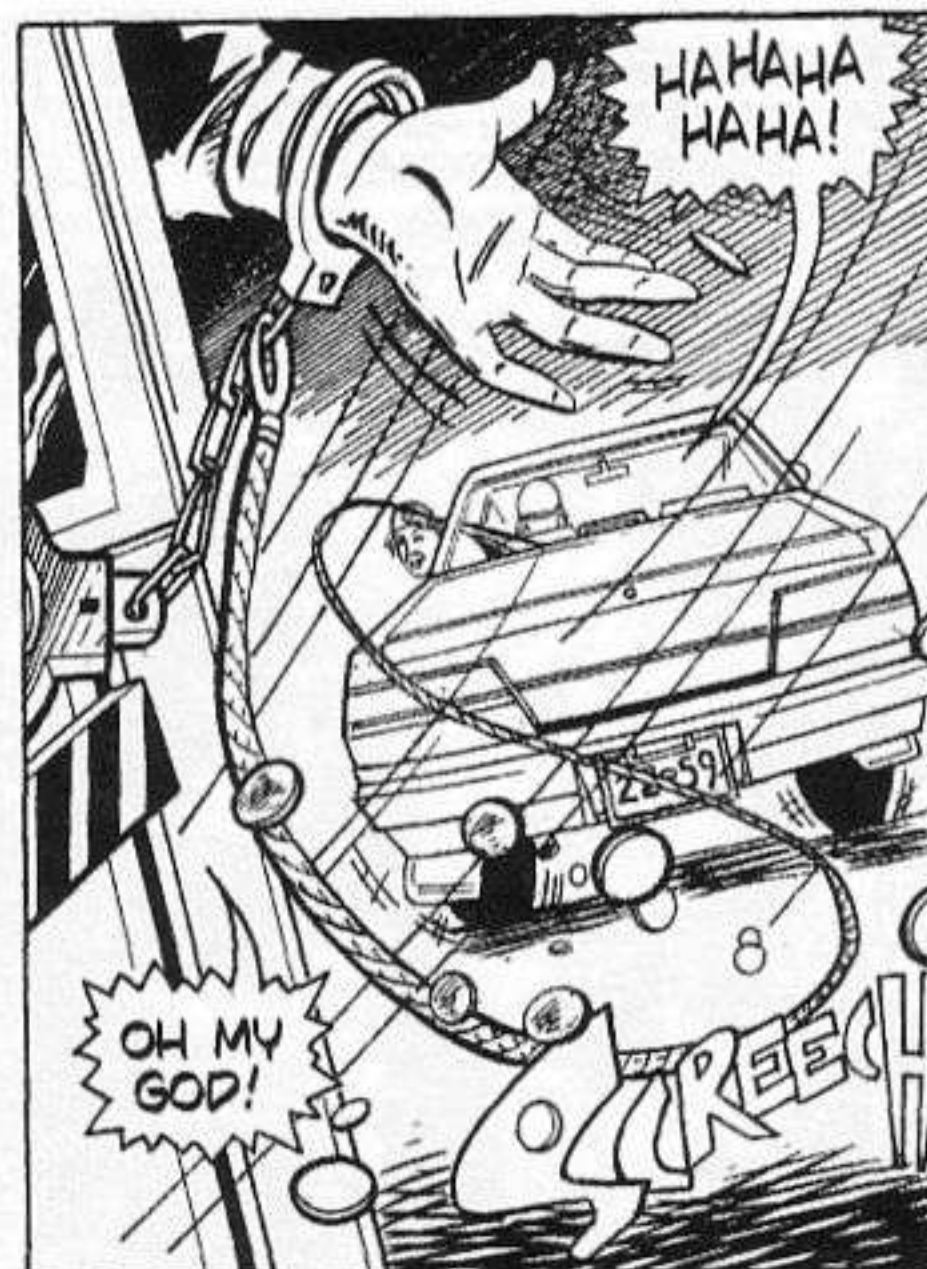
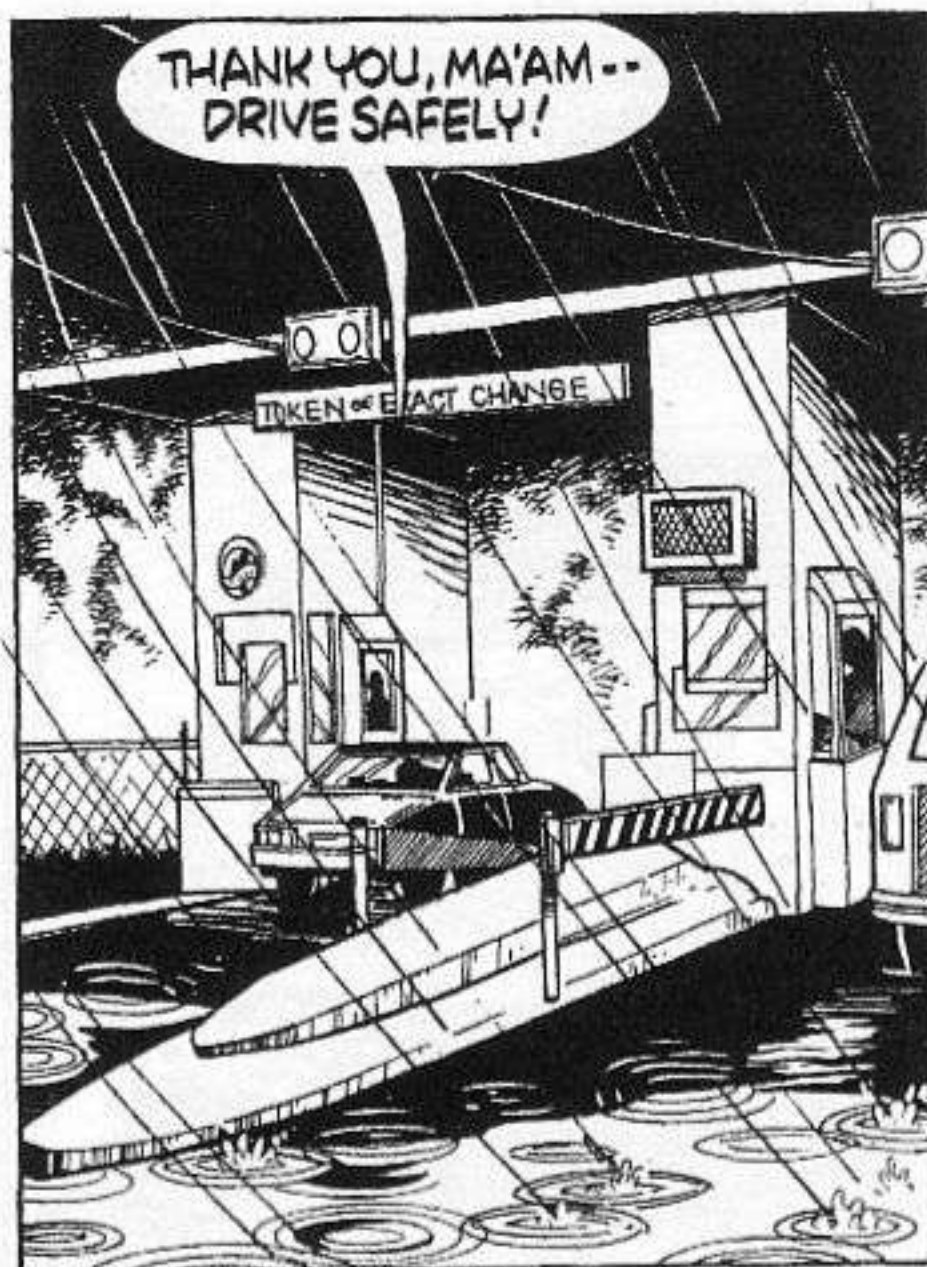
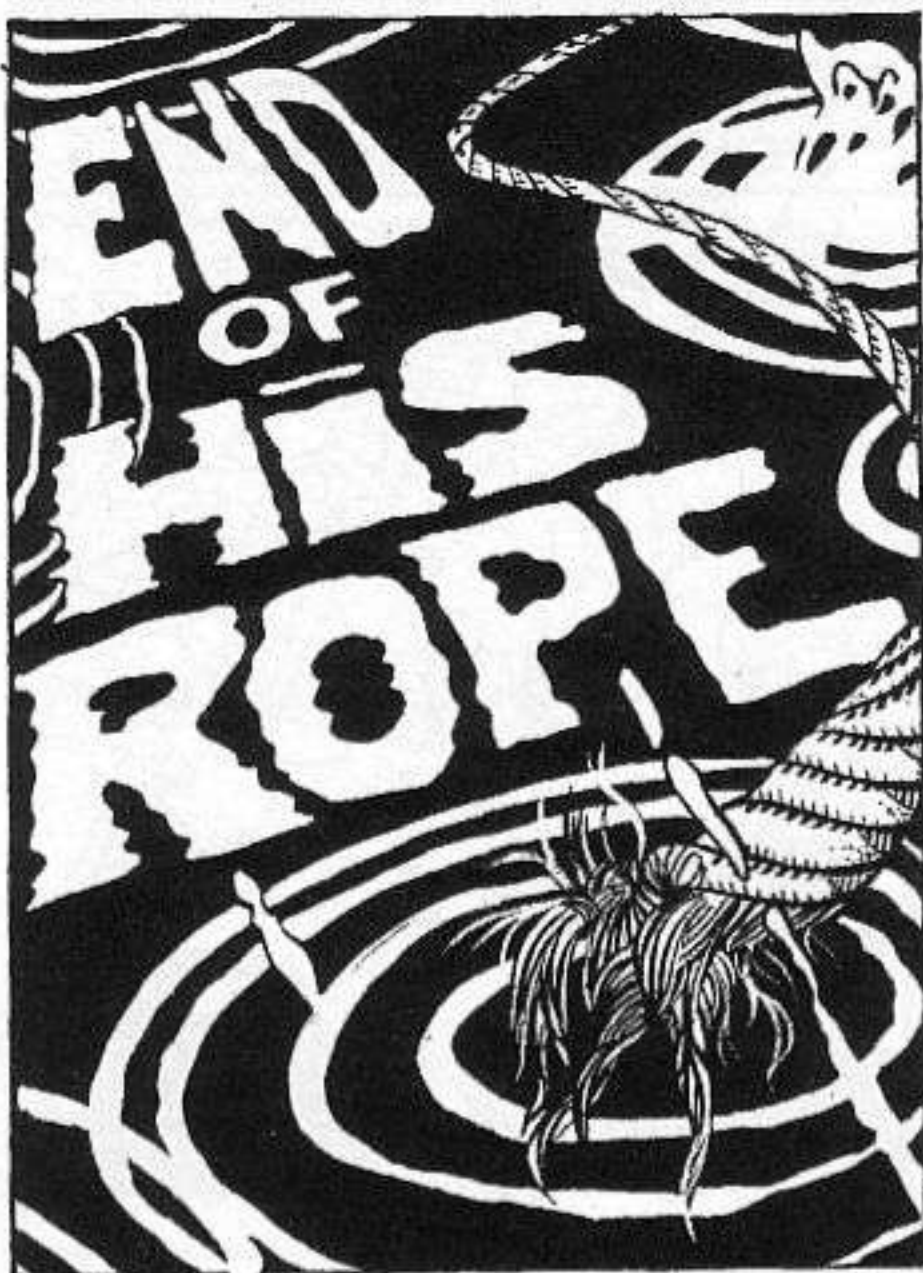
I CAN ASSURE YOU FELLOWS THIS IS COMPLETELY TRUE!

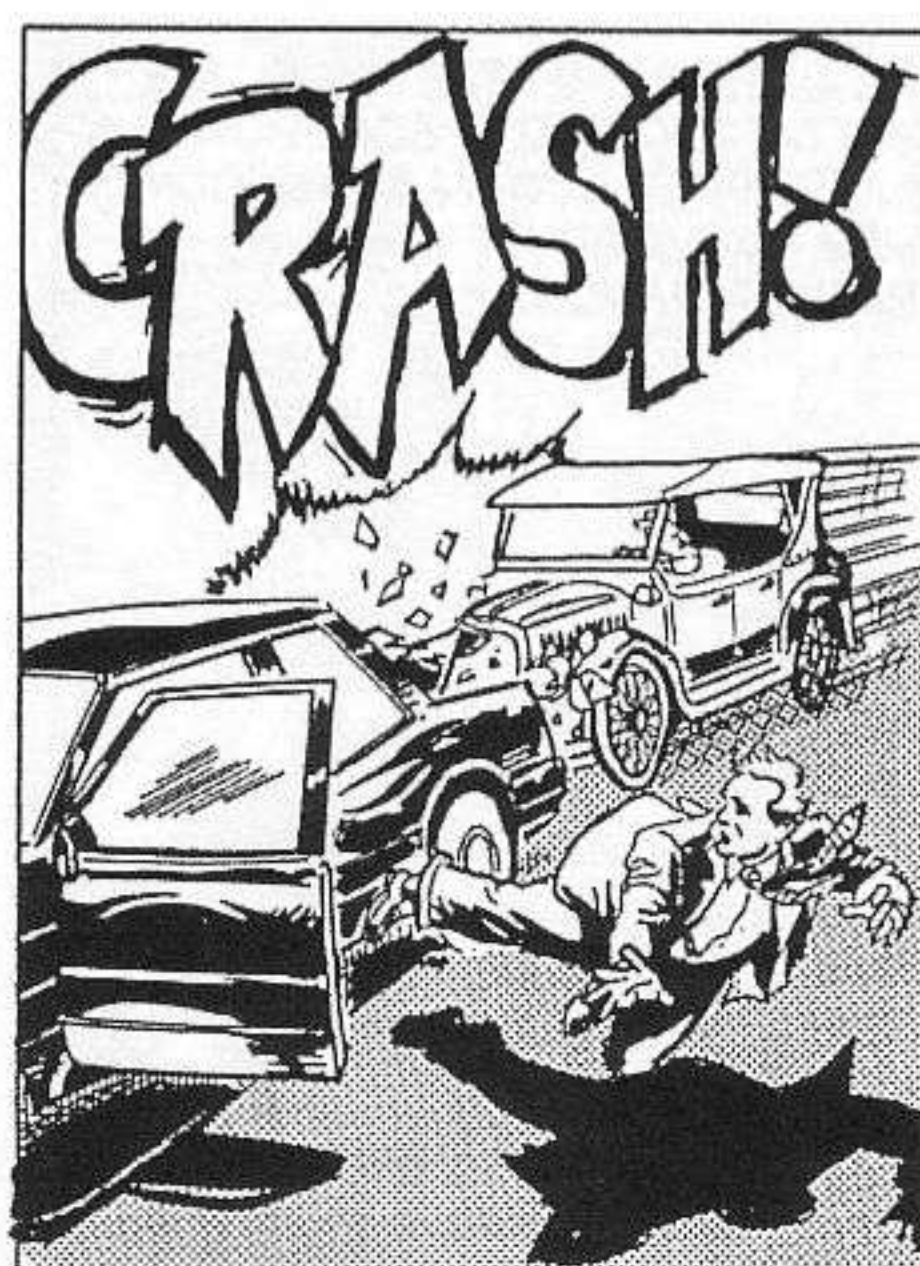
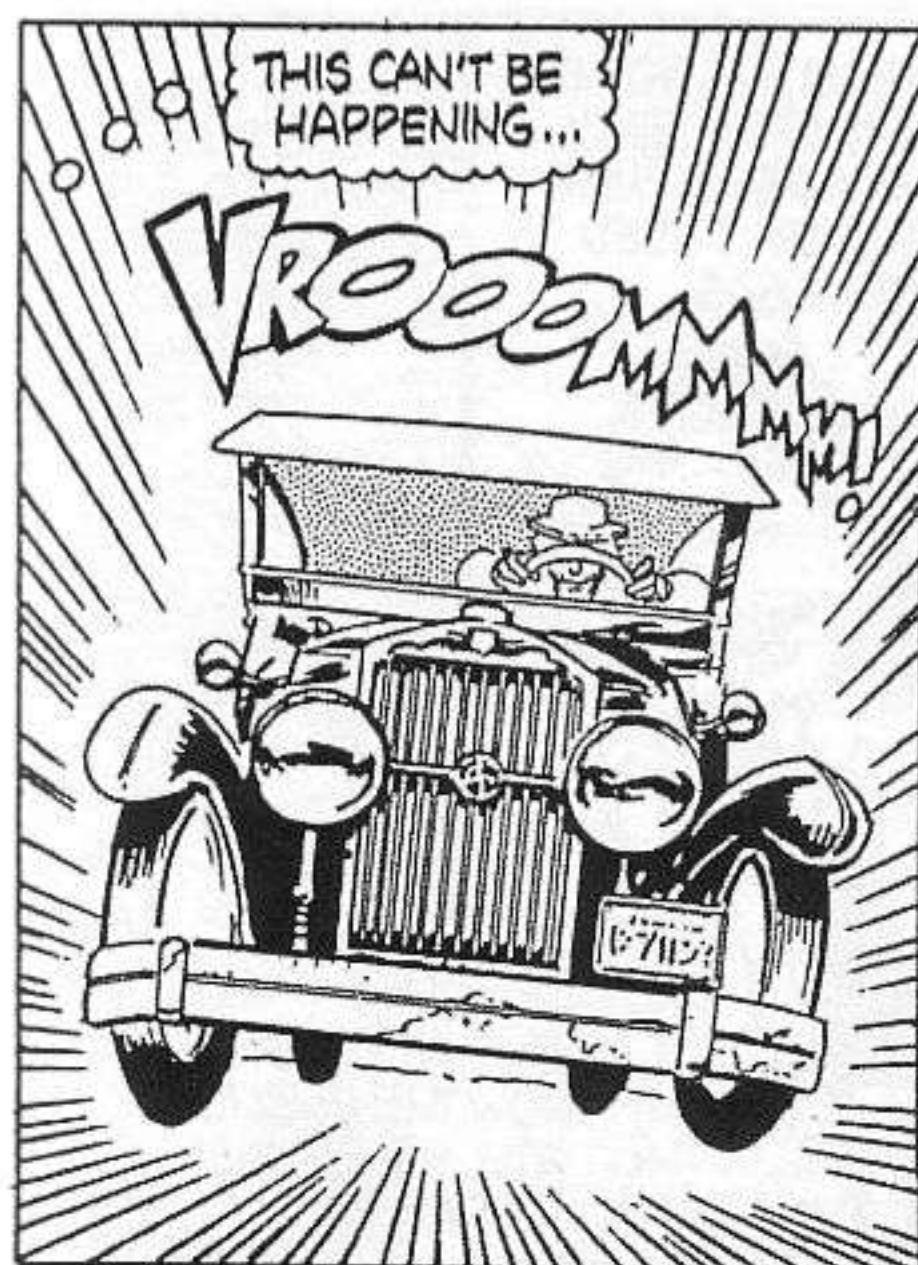
IT'S STRAIGHT FROM MY UNCLE'S THIRD COUSIN BY WAY OF HER HAIRDRESSER'S BEST FRIEND!

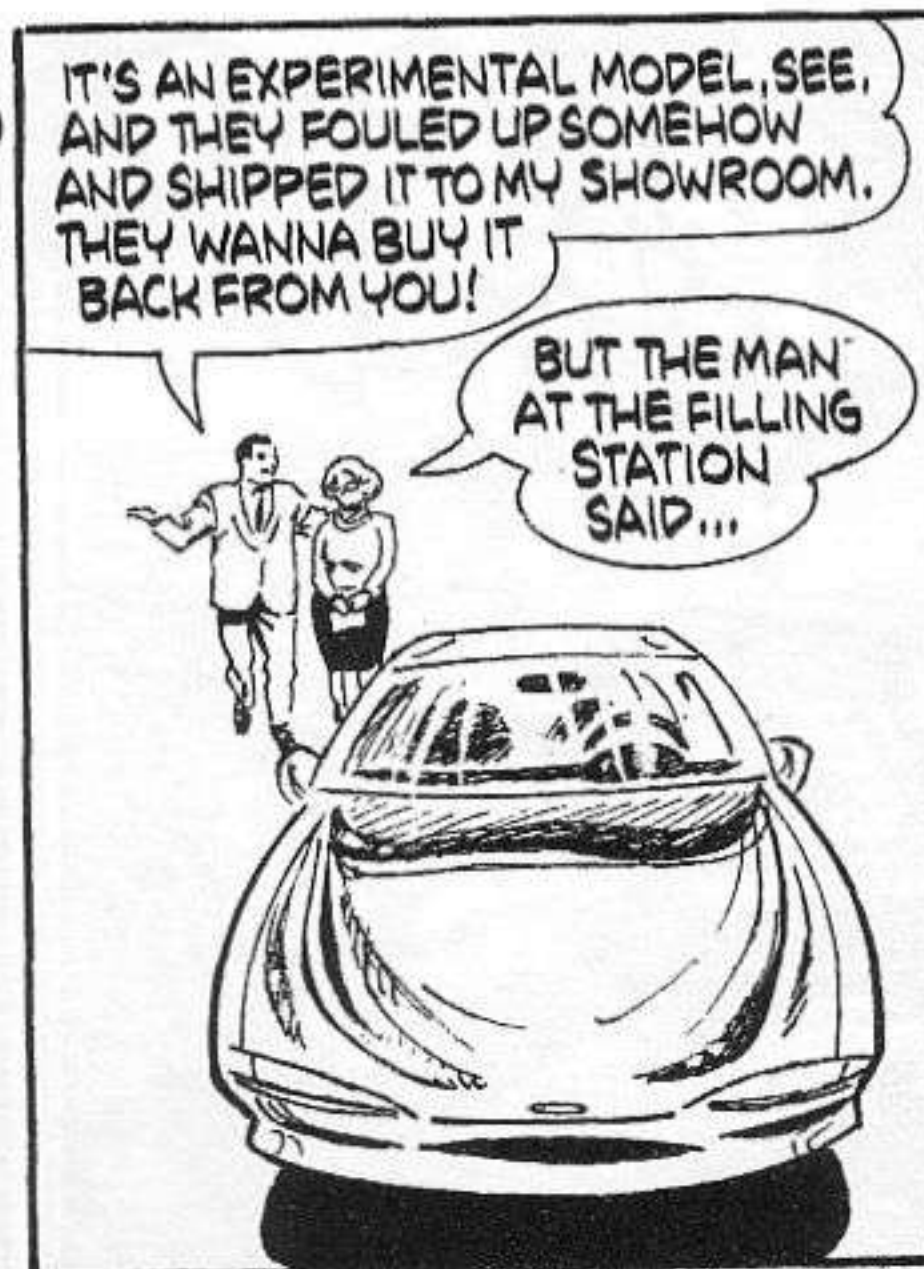
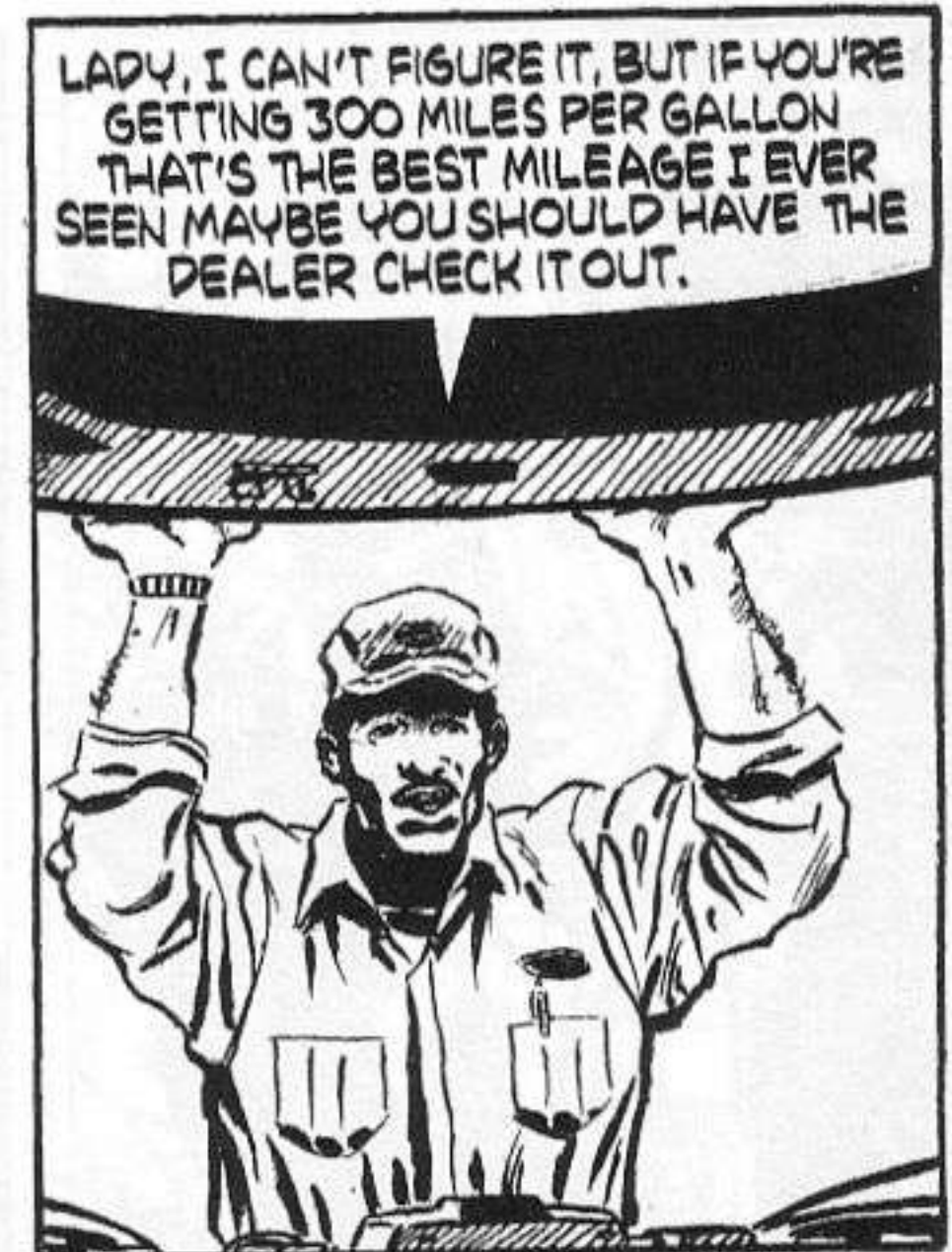
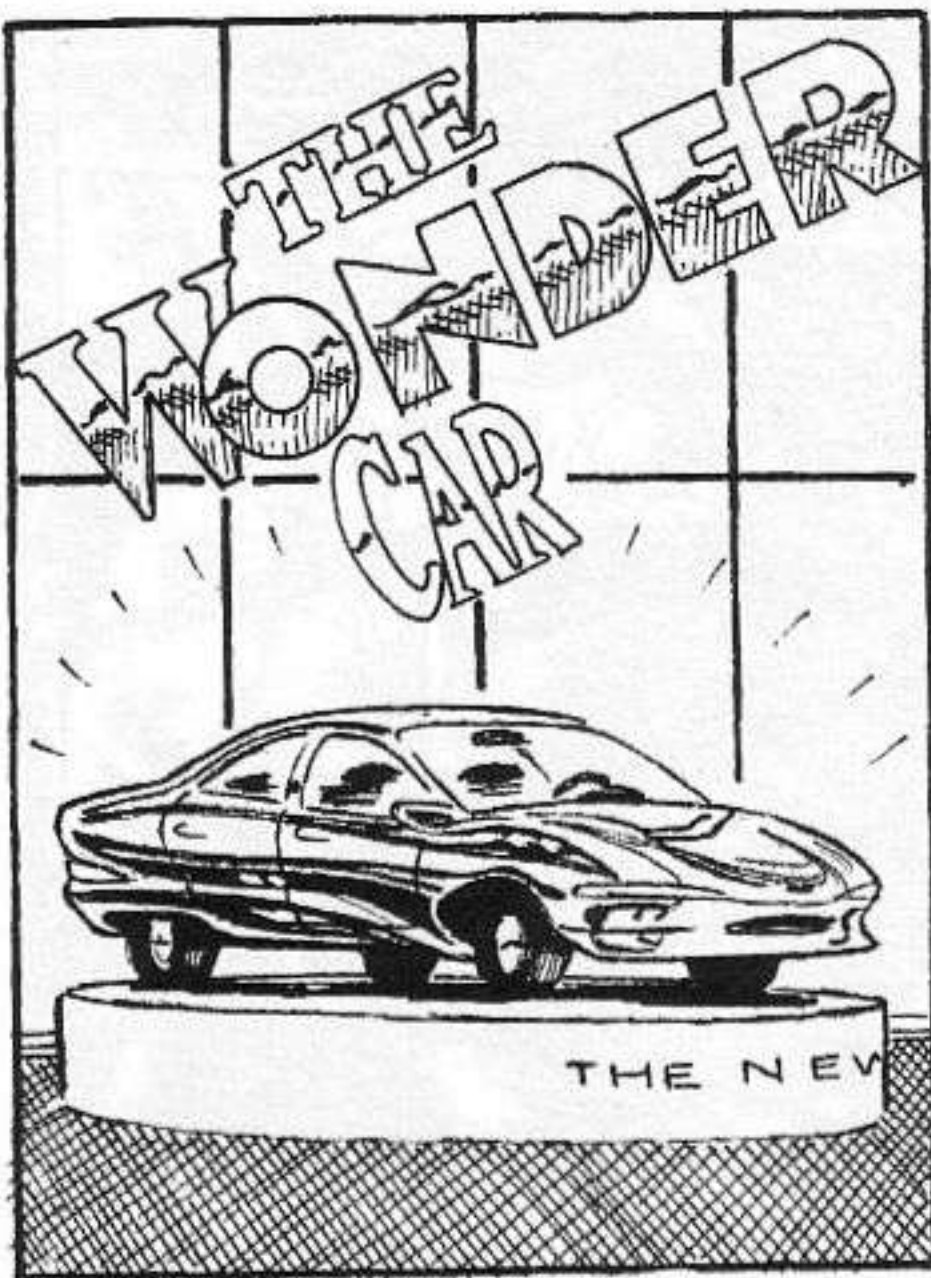
OR WAS IT... MY UNCLE'S HAIRDRESSER BY WAY OF...

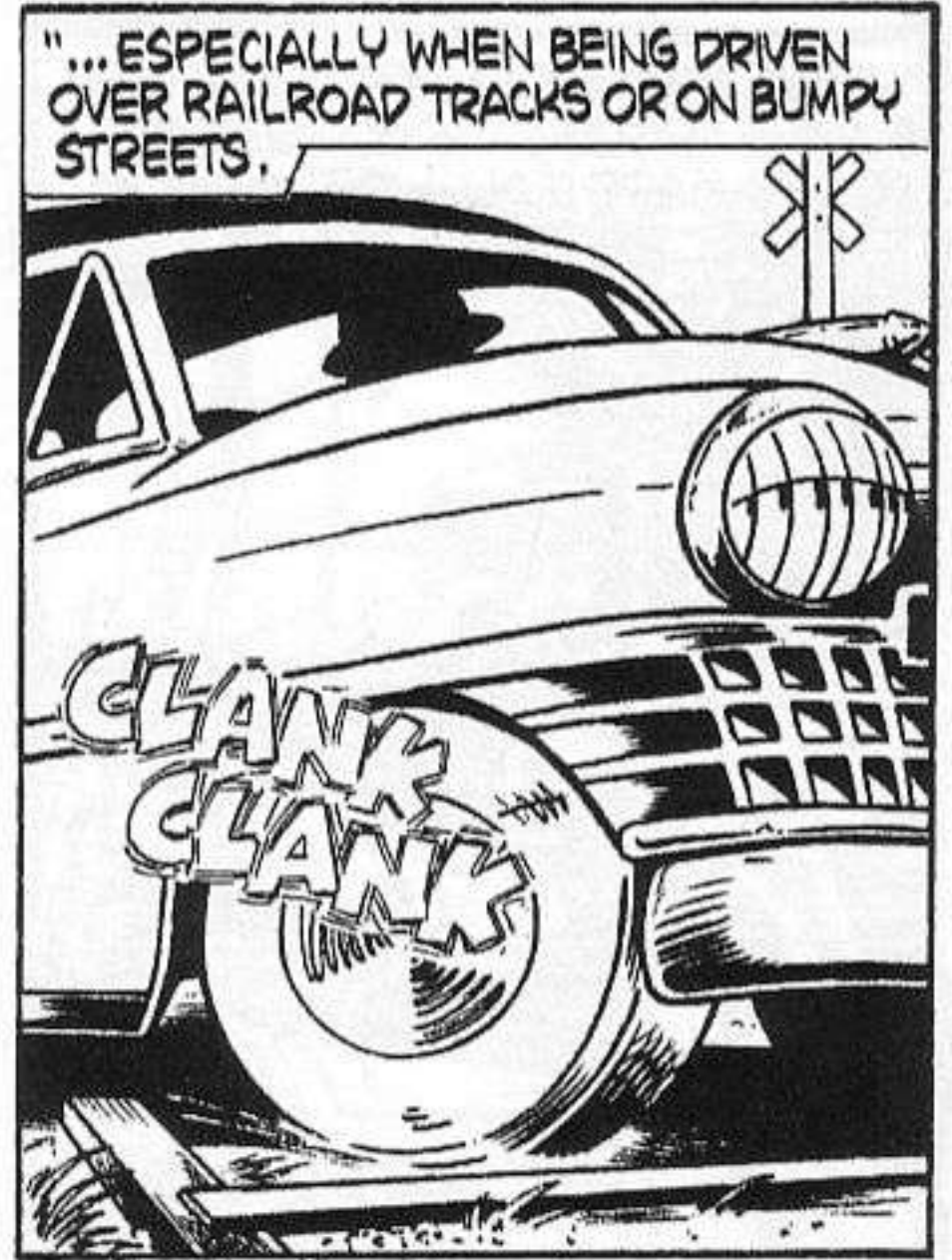
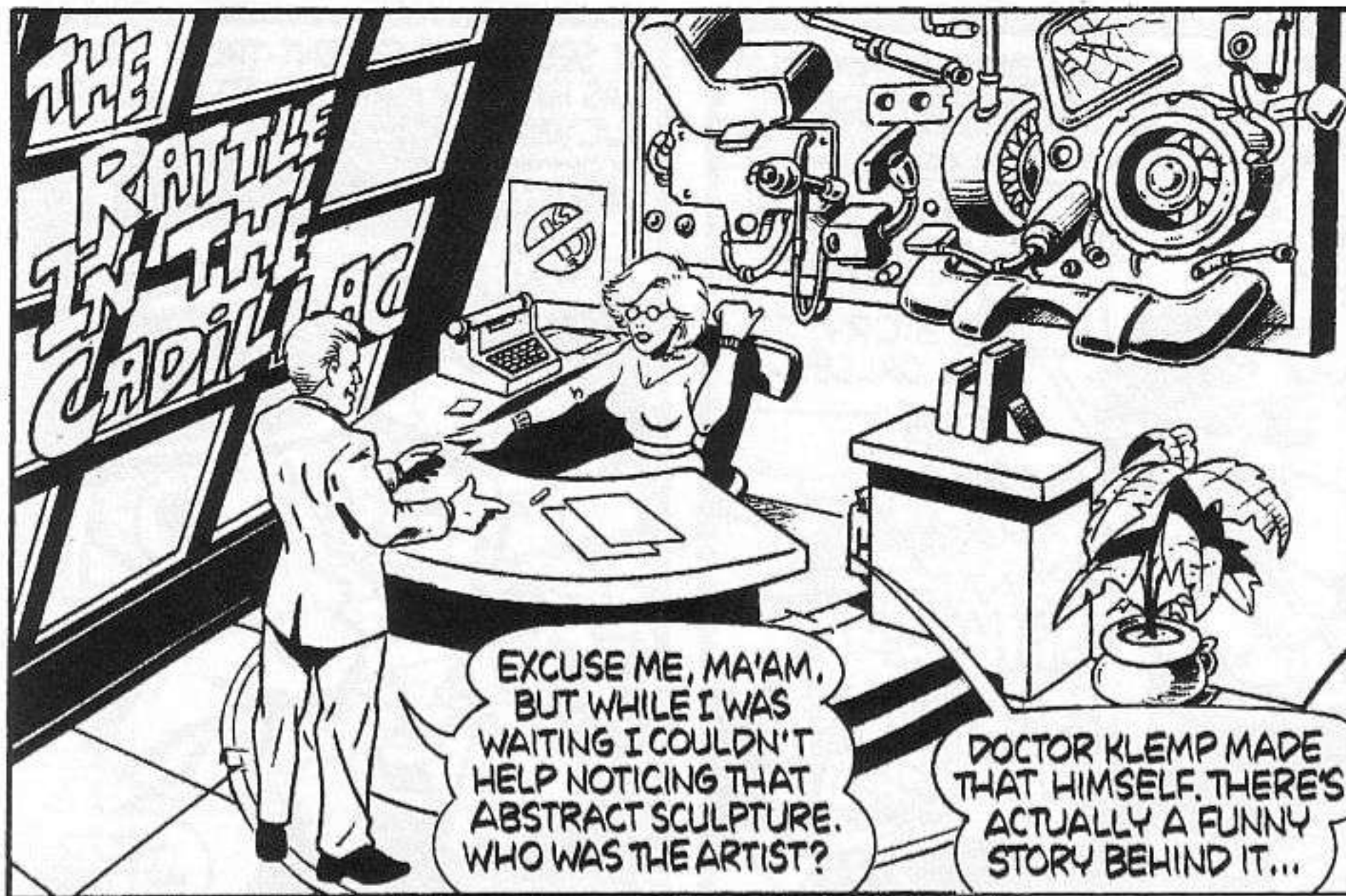
NO, WAIT! IT'S...













HOLD 'EM UP, CHOLLIE! I'M LETTIN' MY BUNCH T'ROO!

'EY, BY THE WAY, DID YOU HEAR WHAT HAPPENED TO ONE-A CARLOTTI CONCRETE'S DRIVERS LAST WEEK? OVER.

CARLOTTI CONCRETE? AIN'T THEY OVER IN JACKSONVILLE? OVER.

YEAH, I'M TELLIN' YA, THIS IS A CLASSIC STORY! IT'S CALLED---

THE
SOLID
CEMENT
CADILLAC



"IT SEEMS THIS CEMENT-TRUCK DRIVER WAS HAPPILY MARRIED TO A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN..."

I'LL MISS YOU!

YOU'D BETTER!



"HE WORKED HIS BUTT OFF ALL DAY, BUT THE THOUGHT OF GOING HOME TO HER MADE IT ALL WORTHWHILE!"

HEY! THAT'S ENOUGH! CUT IT OFF! CUT IT OFF!



"ONE DAY HE GETS AN ORDER TO DELIVER A LOAD OF WET MIX RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER FROM HIS HOUSE, SO HE DECIDES TO SURPRISE THE LITTLE WOMAN..."

WE CAN HAVE AFTER-NOON COFFEE JUST LIKE WE DID ON OUR HONEYMOON!



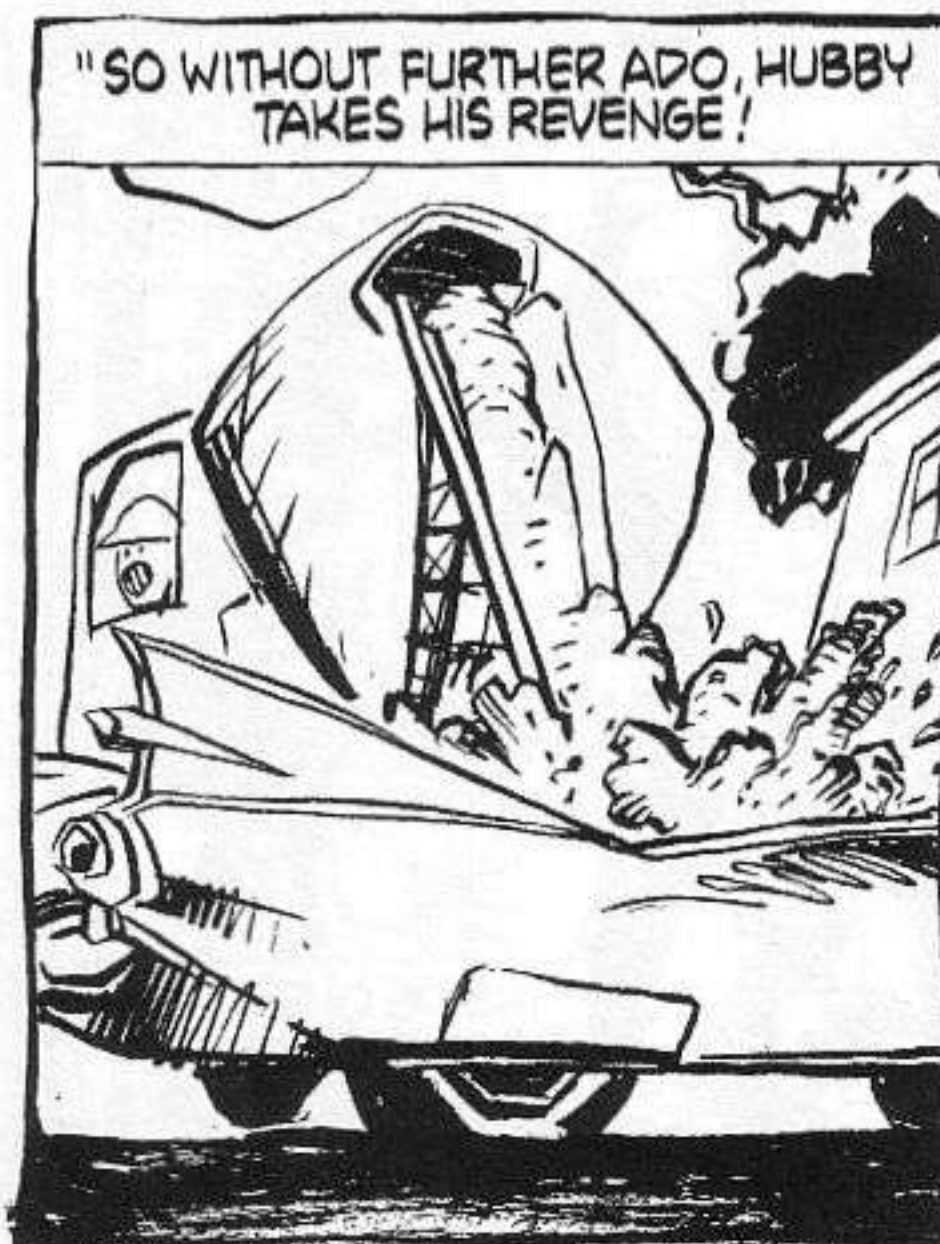
"BUT WHEN THE POOR SLOB ARRIVES HOME..."

I WONDER WHO THAT BELONGS TO?



"AND TO ADD INSULT TO INJURY, THE OWNER OF THE CADDY IS IN THE KITCHEN HAVING AFTERNOON COFFEE WITH THIS GUY'S WIFE!"

JUST LIKE ON OUR HONEYMOON!

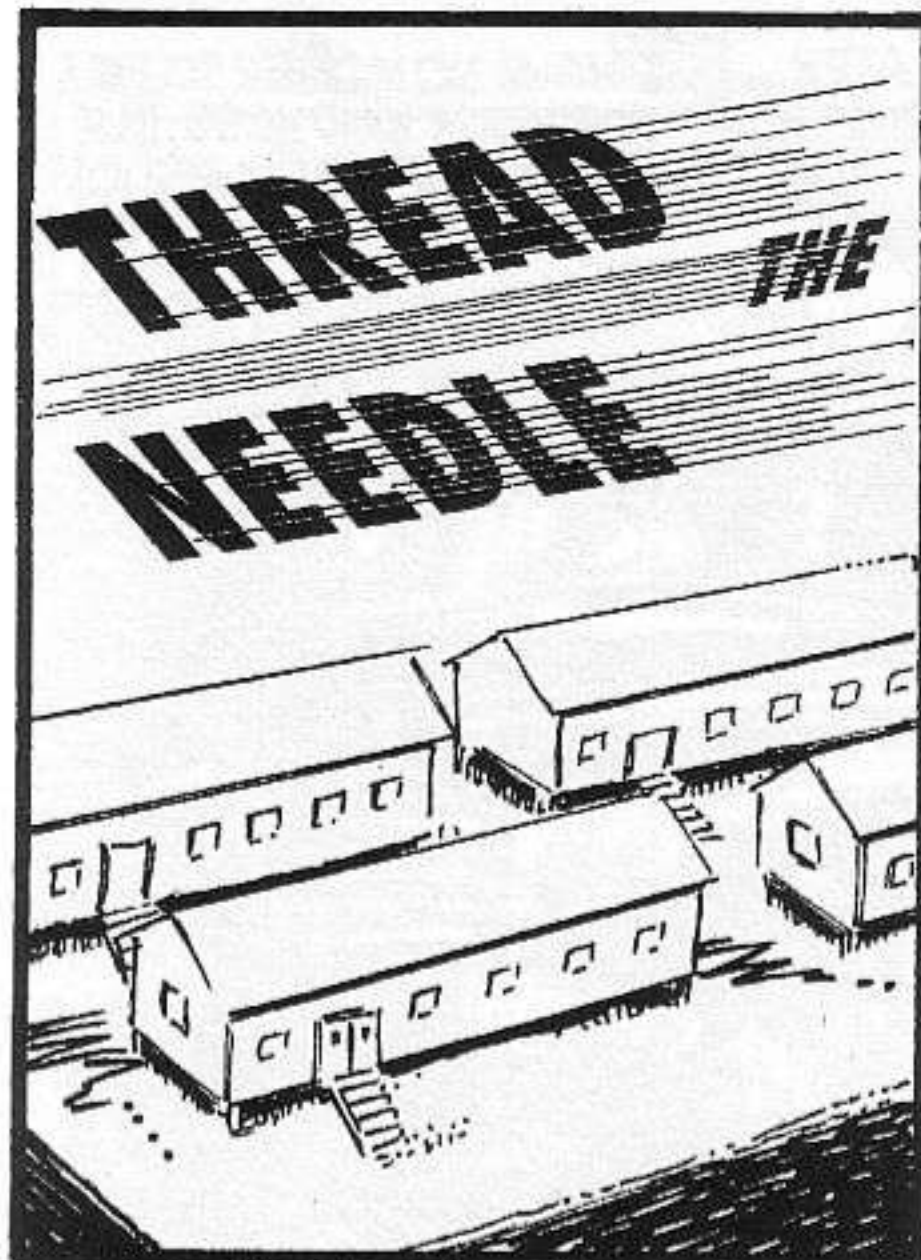


"SO WITHOUT FURTHER ADO, HUBBY TAKES HIS REVENGE!"

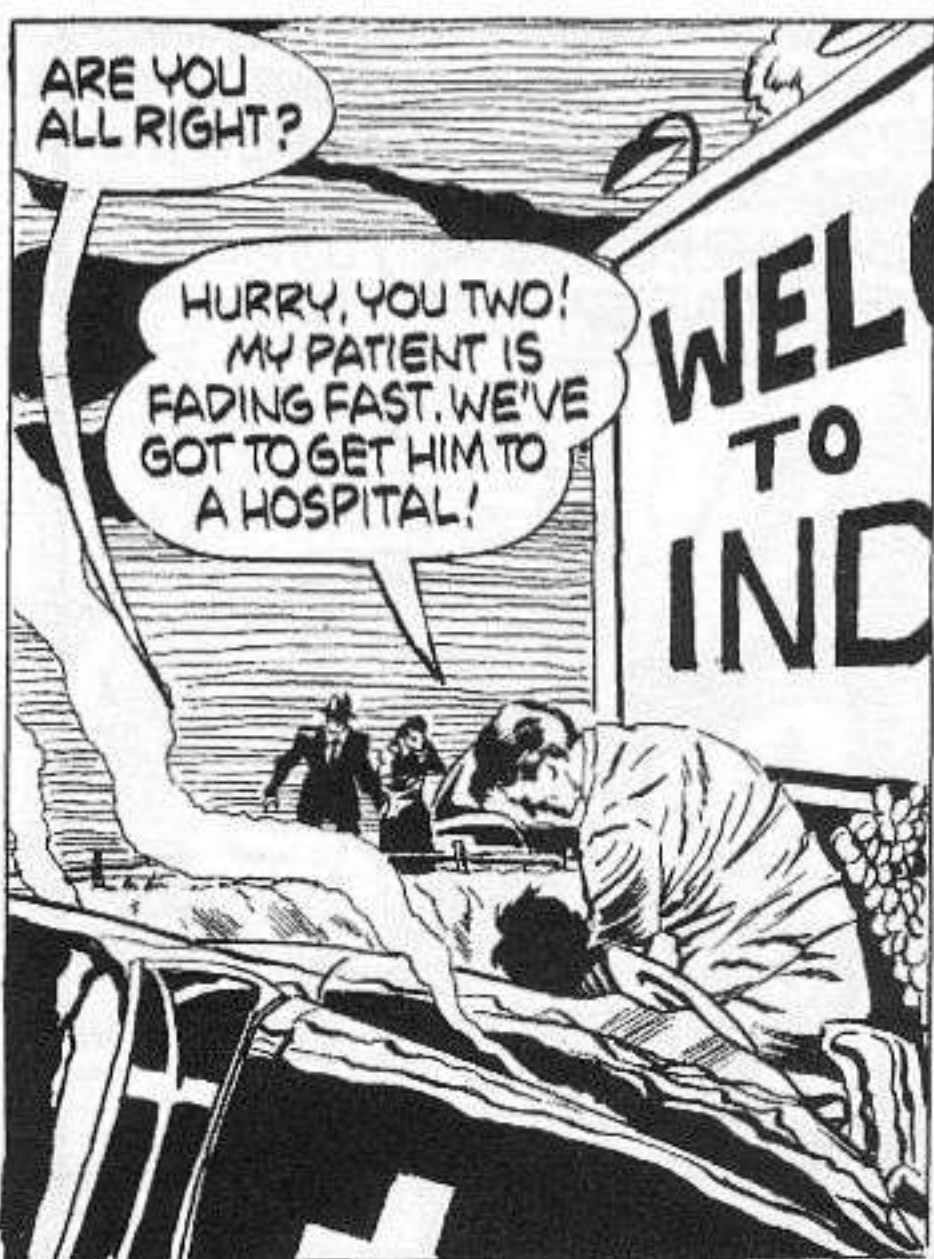
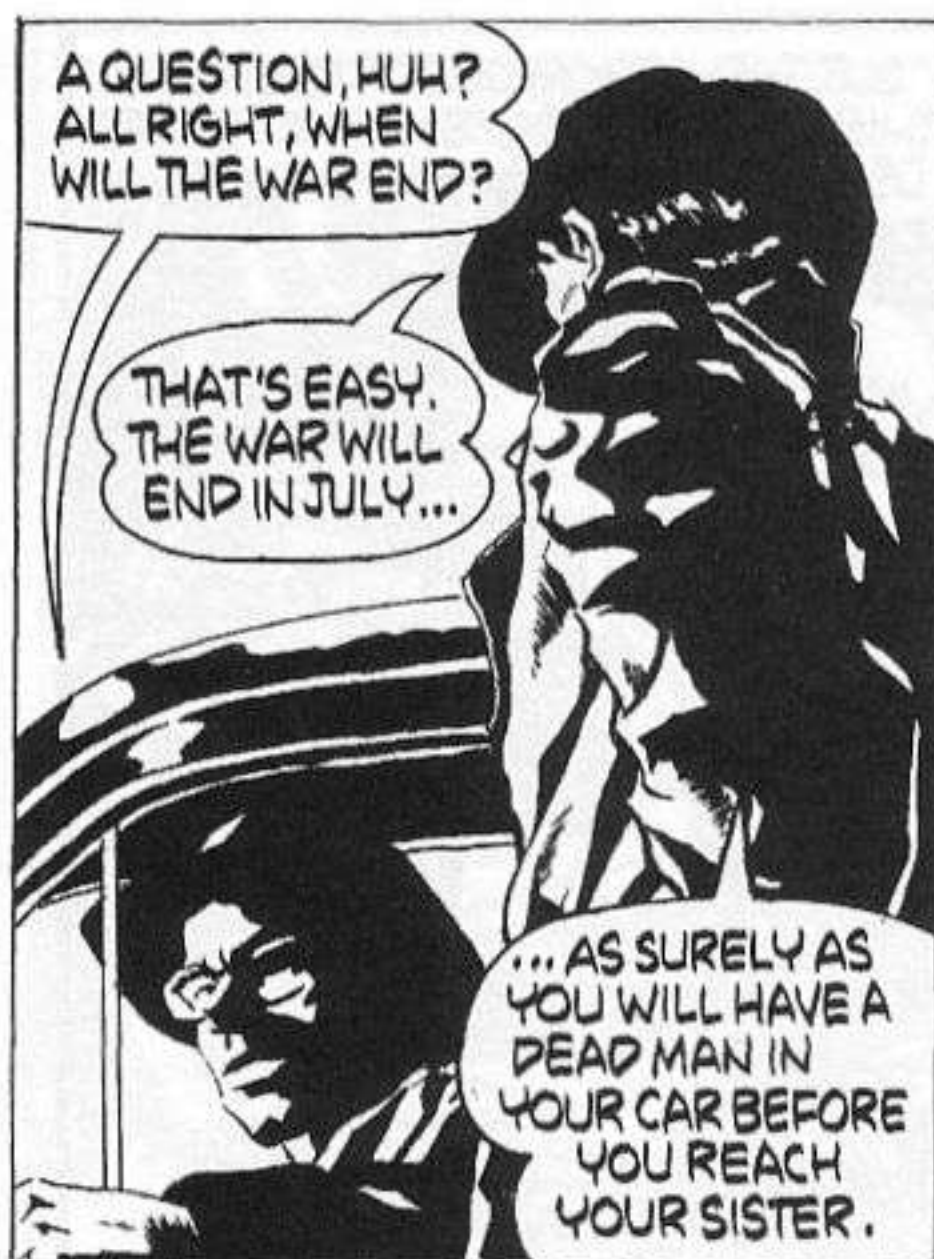


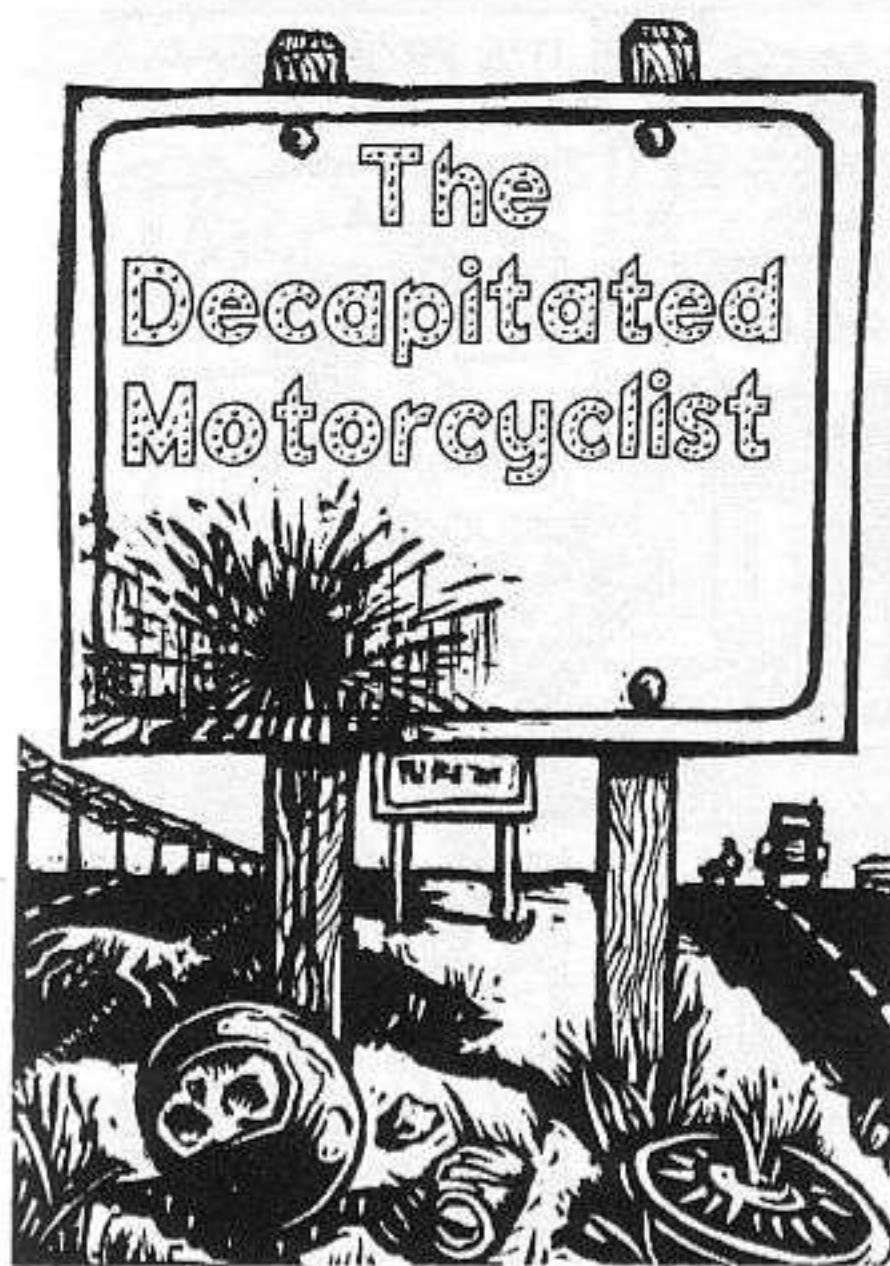
"BUT WHEN HE RETURNS HOME THAT NIGHT, HE GETS THE REAL SURPRISE!"

YOU IDIOT! THAT MAN WAS THE LOCAL CADILLAC DEALER DELIVERING THE CAR I BOUGHT FOR YOU WITH MY HARD-EARNED SAVINGS!



THE CORPSE IN THE CAR





THE Philanderer's PORSCHE

CHEROKEE
Deluxe Package, inc. Air
Low Mileage-\$8,000.
Call Jerry-203-3351

For Sale by Owner:
Almost New Porsche in
excellent condition.
\$50.00 15 Meadow P

HONDA A
Hatchback
needs work
Low price

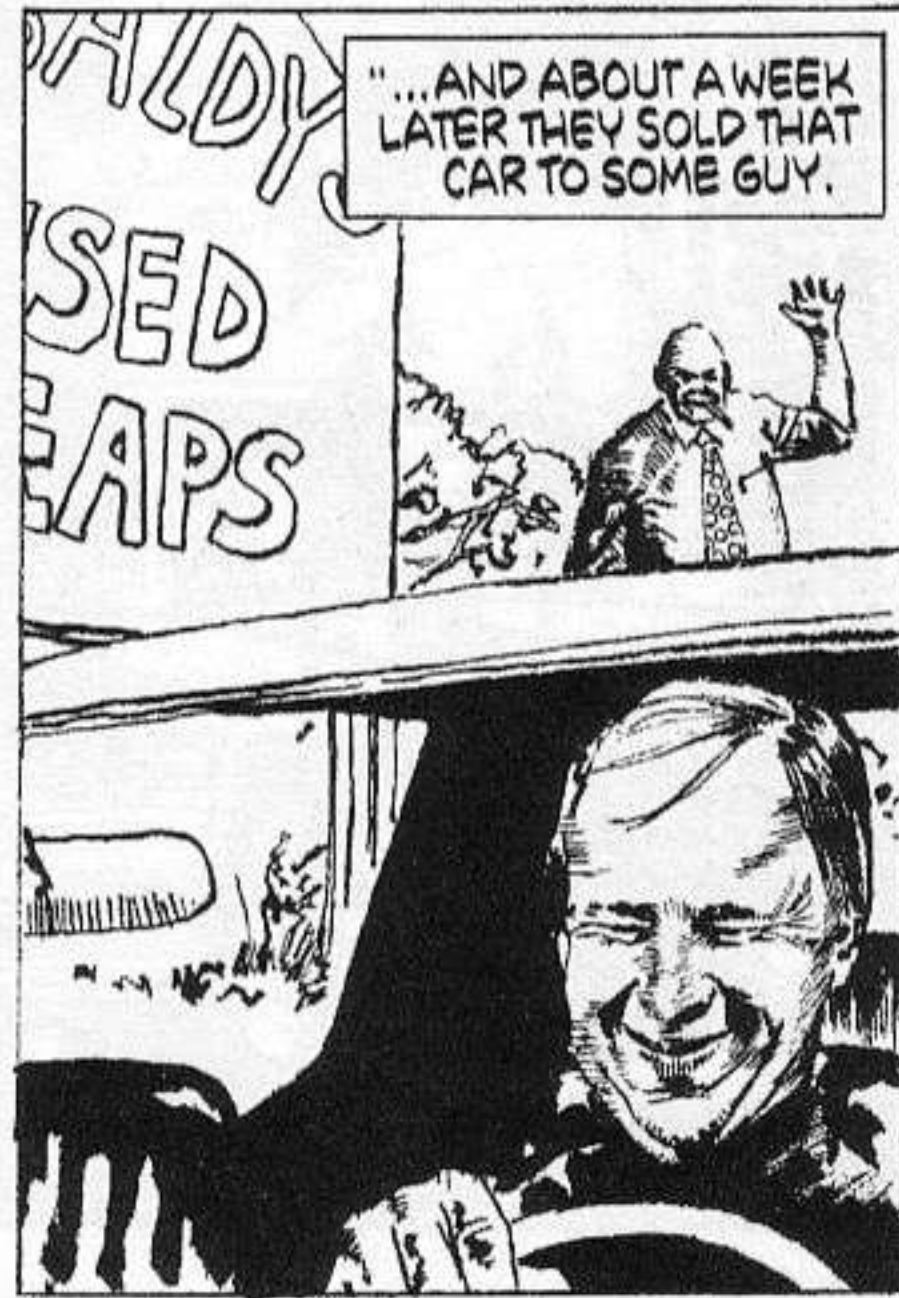
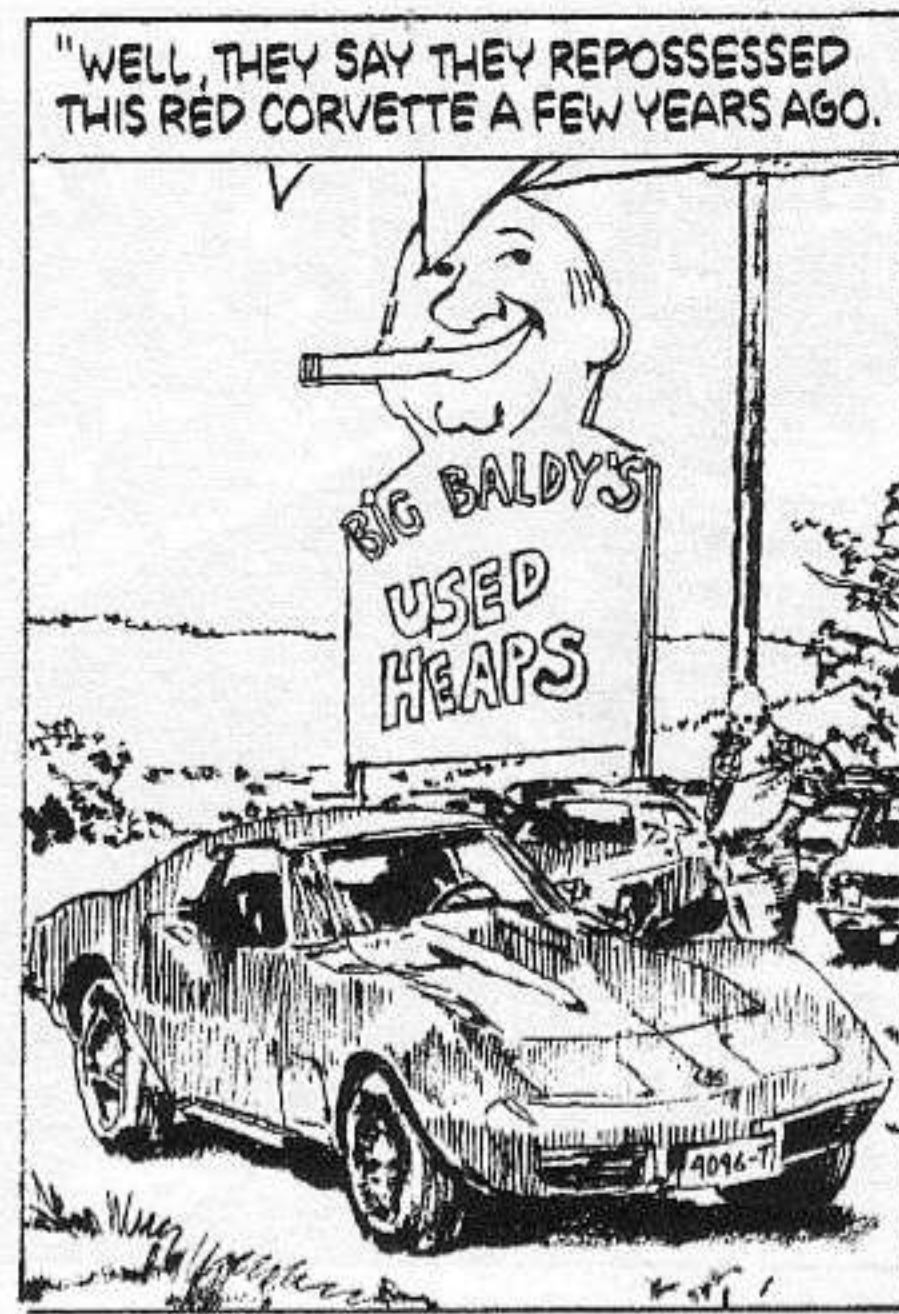
MGB '79 G
Restored. No
Storage \$5.00

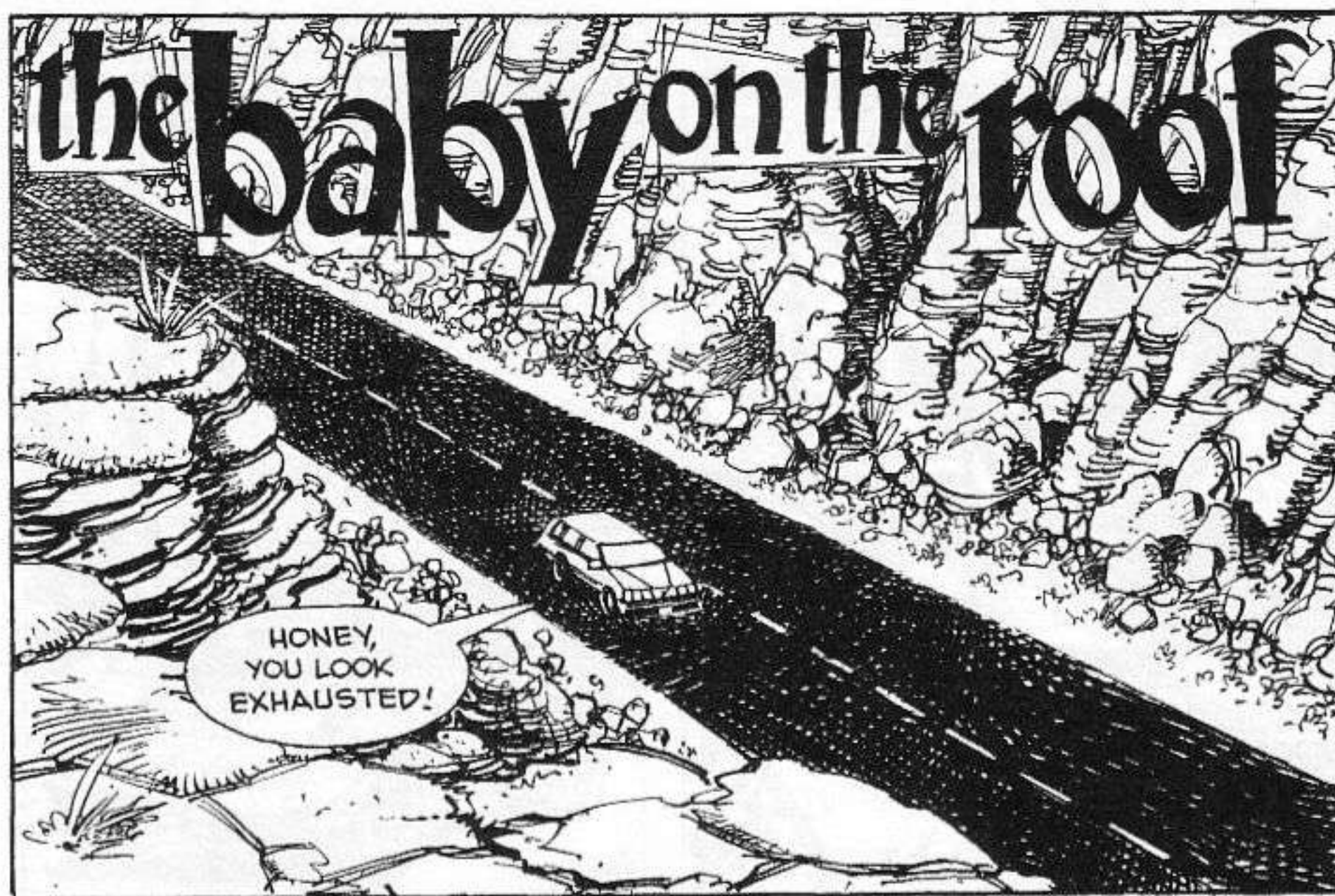
\$50.00
FOR A
PORSCHE!
THIS
CAN'T BE
RIGHT!

IT'S PROBABLY A
TYPOGRAPHICAL ERROR...

... BUT EVEN AT
\$5000.00 IT
WOULD BE A
BARGAIN!







The NUDE in the RV



ONLY DRIVEN ONCE, BY A MINISTER'S WIFE!



"A COUPLE MONTHS BACK THIS MINISTER AND HIS WIFE BOUGHT THIS BRAND NEW RV AND WENT ON VACATION.



"...SO HE TOOK OFF HIS CLOTHES TO LIE DOWN FOR A NAP.



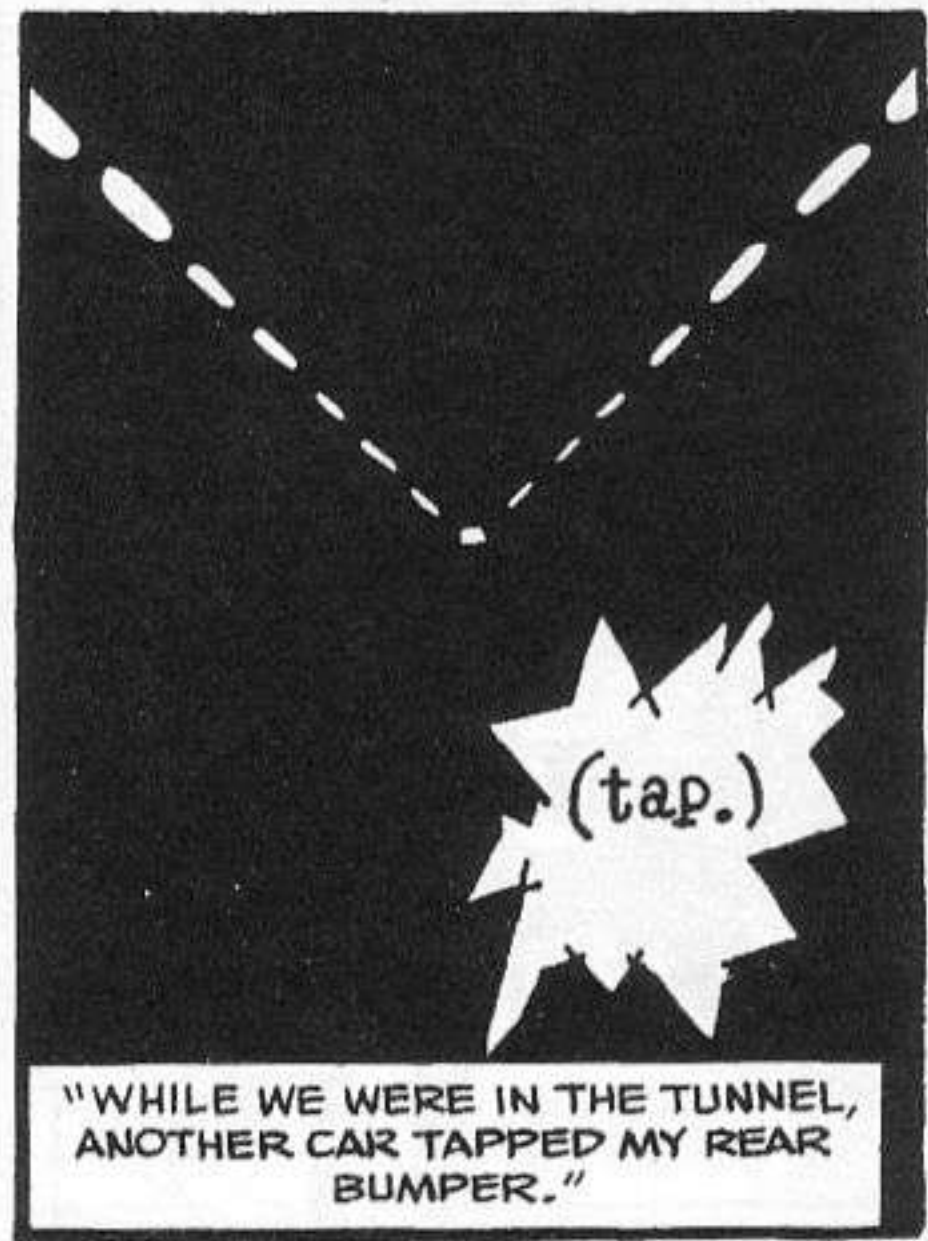
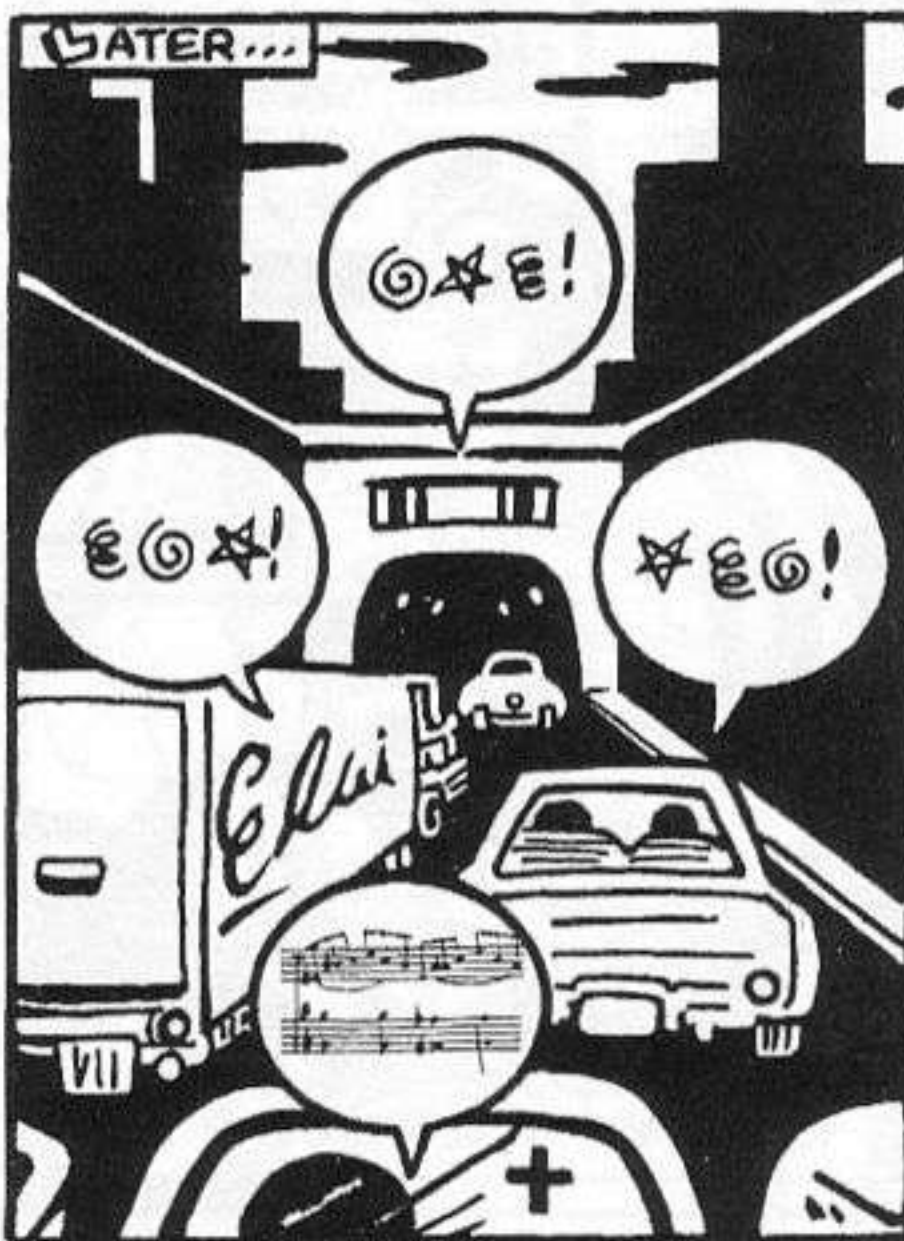
"THE RV GAVE A JERK, AND THE MINISTER FELL OUT.



"THEY PASSED HIS WIFE ON THE HIGHWAY, BUT SHE DIDN'T EVEN KNOW THAT HER HUSBAND HAD FALLEN OUT.



"...WELL, ASIDE FROM THE DENTS, SHE'S IN PRETTY GOOD SHAPE!"



CHAPTER TWO

WILD KINGDOM

ANIMAL LEGENDS

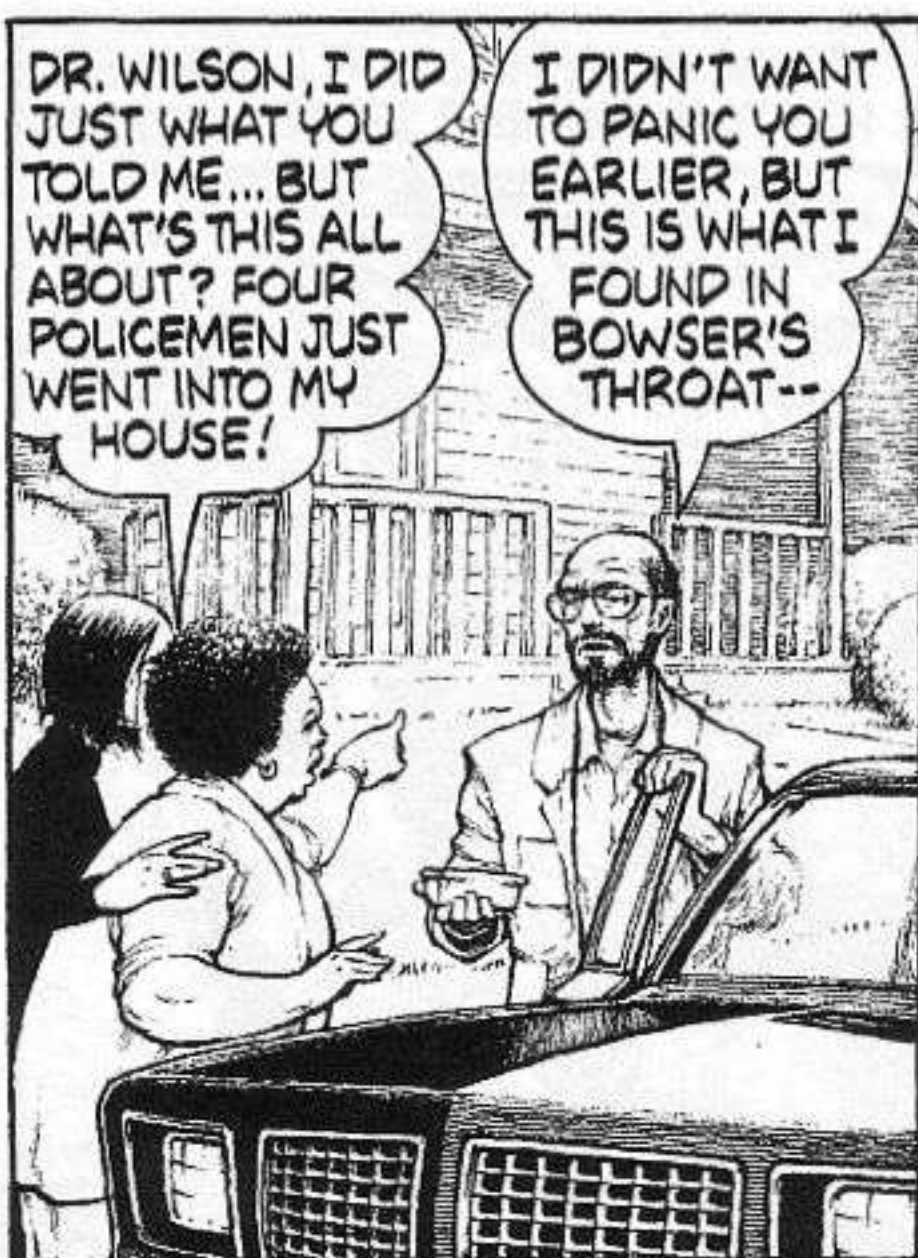
Don't read this chapter to your pets; some of these stories could give them nightmares. True, we tend to treat our pets like members of the family, but in urban legends that treatment is more like what you'd love to do to a hated sadistic sibling than to a beloved old grandparent. And even when an animal in a legend occasionally seems to get the upper hand (paw? claw? flipper?), the end results still tend to be tragic for the unlucky beast. Okay, so an occasional rattlesnake, tapeworm, or earwig gets the better of a human, but this isn't exactly a Lassie-type animal character, is it? Poor critters!



"I WAS VISITING TIJUANA, MEXICO, WHEN PEPITO ENTERED MY LIFE. HE LOOKED AT ME WITH SUCH HUNGRY EYES THAT I COULDN'T REFUSE HIM! WE SHARED A SANDWICH AND I LOST MY HEART!



THE CHOKING DOBERMAN



ANOTHER CHOKING DOBERMAN

DON'T GET ME WRONG - I LOVE MY WIFE! BUT SHE CAN GET ALONG WITHOUT ME ONE NIGHT A WEEK, RIGHT?

TWO NIGHTS! DON'T FORGET, ON TUESDAYS WE BOWL!

HEY, I HEARD A TRUE STORY TODAY ABOUT THIS BOWLER WHO NEGLECTED HIS WIFE!

I GOT IT STRAIGHT FROM MY BUTCHER-- IT HAPPENED TO A COUSIN OF HIS LAND-LADY'S DENTIST!

"THIS GUY WENT BOWLING EVERY TUESDAY LIKE CLOCKWORK, JUST LIKE US. BUT ONE NIGHT THERE WAS A SURPRISE WAITING FOR HIM WHEN HE GOT HOME..."

HERE, REX! WHERE ARE YOU, BOY?

JEFF! YOU'RE HOME!

GOOD LORD, SUSAN, WHAT'S WRONG WITH REX??

HAWK!
GOFF!

UH... HE JUST STARTED CHOKING LIKE THAT! MAYBE YOU'D BETTER RUSH HIM TO THE VET!

SOMETHING'S LODGED IN HIS WINDPIPE! WHERE WAS HE WHEN ALL THIS BEGAN?

WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES THAT MAKE?

THE VET WILL WANT TO KNOW WHAT HE SWALLOWED!

LOOK! THERE'S A TRAIL OF BLOOD LEADING UNDER THE BED!

OKAY, WHO ARE YOU AND WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING UNDER THERE?

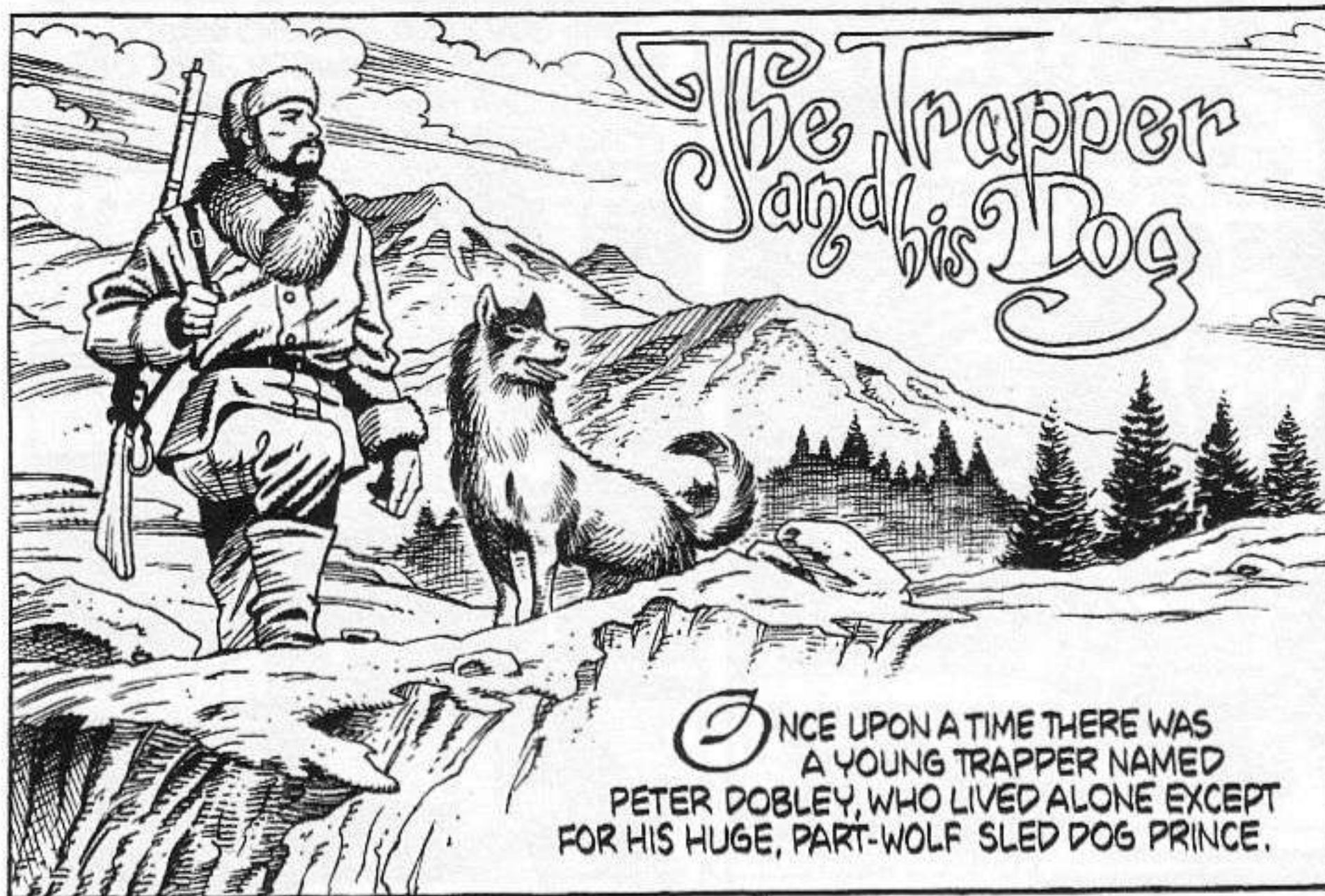
HIDING! YOUR DAMN DOG BIT OFF TWO OF MY FINGERS!!

WE'VE BEEN HAVING AN AFFAIR FOR MONTHS, ON YOUR BOWLING NIGHT. YOU NEVER WOULD HAVE FOUND OUT IF REX HADN'T GOTTEN INTO THE BEDROOM!

HE THOUGHT ARNOLD WAS ATTACKING ME!

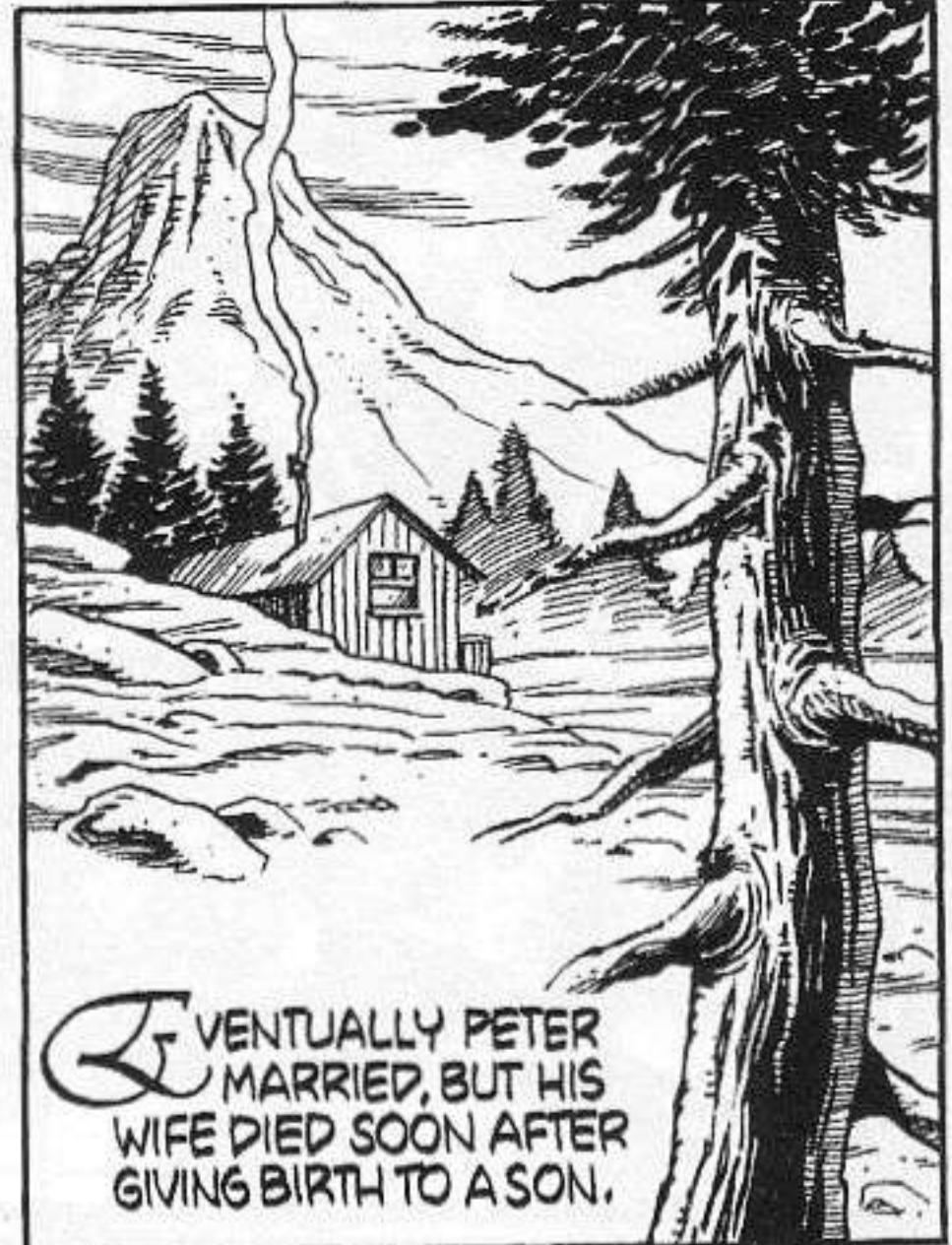
SO YOU SEE, YOU MARRIED GUYS SHOULD REALLY SPEND MORE TIME AT HOME WITH YOUR WIVES, OR YOU MIGHT END UP LIKE--

--HUH?



The Trapper and his Dog

ONCE UPON A TIME THERE WAS A YOUNG TRAPPER NAMED PETER DOBLEY, WHO LIVED ALONE EXCEPT FOR HIS HUGE, PART-WOLF SLED DOG PRINCE.



EVENTUALLY PETER MARRIED, BUT HIS WIFE DIED SOON AFTER GIVING BIRTH TO A SON.



FROM THEN ON IT FELL TO PRINCE TO GUARD THE BABY WHILE HIS MASTER WAS OUT TRAPPING.



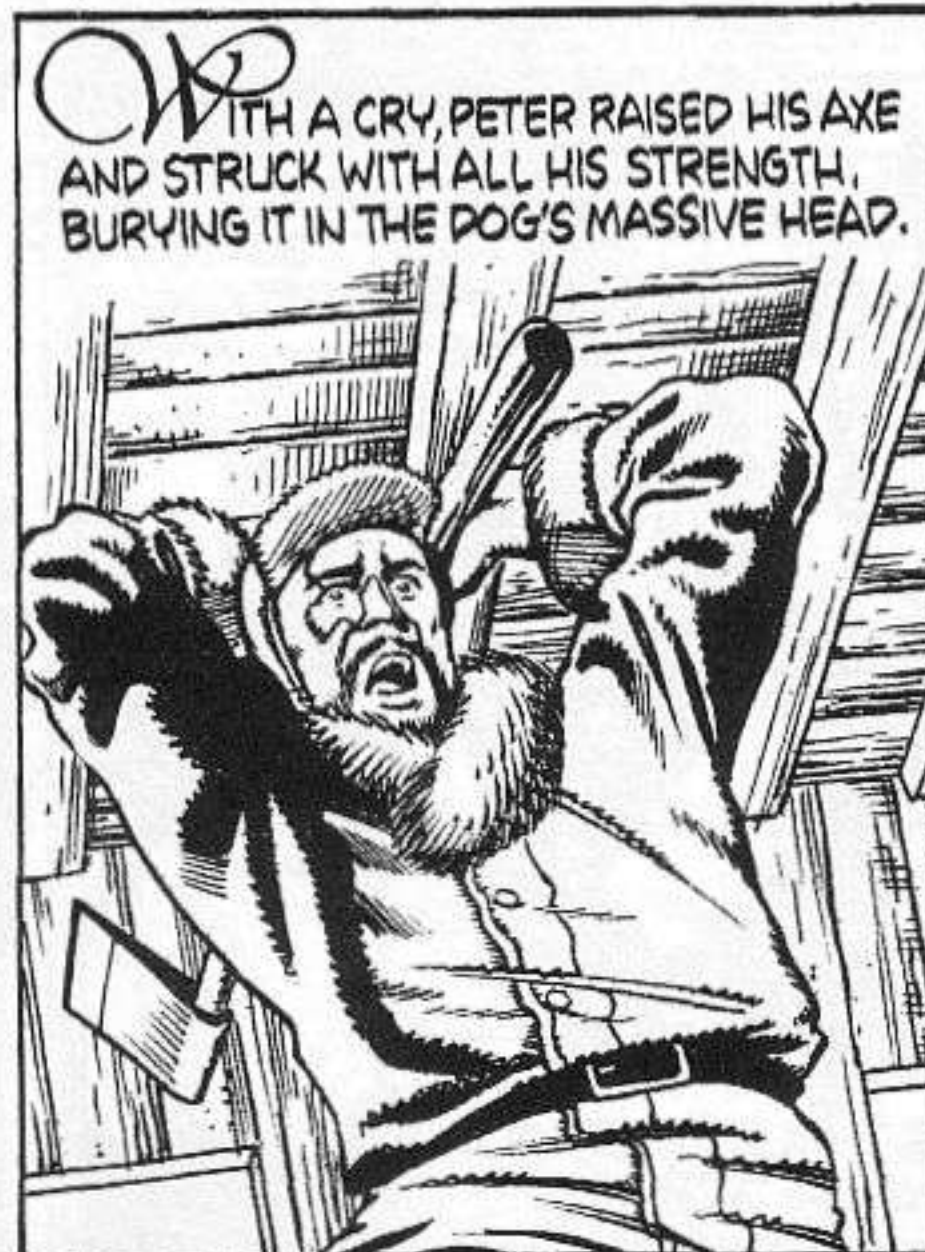
ONE DAY, CAUGHT IN A BLIZZARD, PETER WAS HOURS LATE RETURNING HOME. ARRIVING, HE FOUND THE CABIN DOOR HALF OPEN.



A TERRIBLE SIGHT AWAITED HIM INSIDE... HIS SON WAS GONE AND THE CRIB STAINED WITH BLOOD!



AS PETER STOOD ROOTED IN HORROR, PRINCE CREEPT FROM UNDER THE BED. HIS MUZZLE WAS ALSO RED WITH BLOOD AND HE SEEMED TO AVOID HIS MASTER'S GAZE.

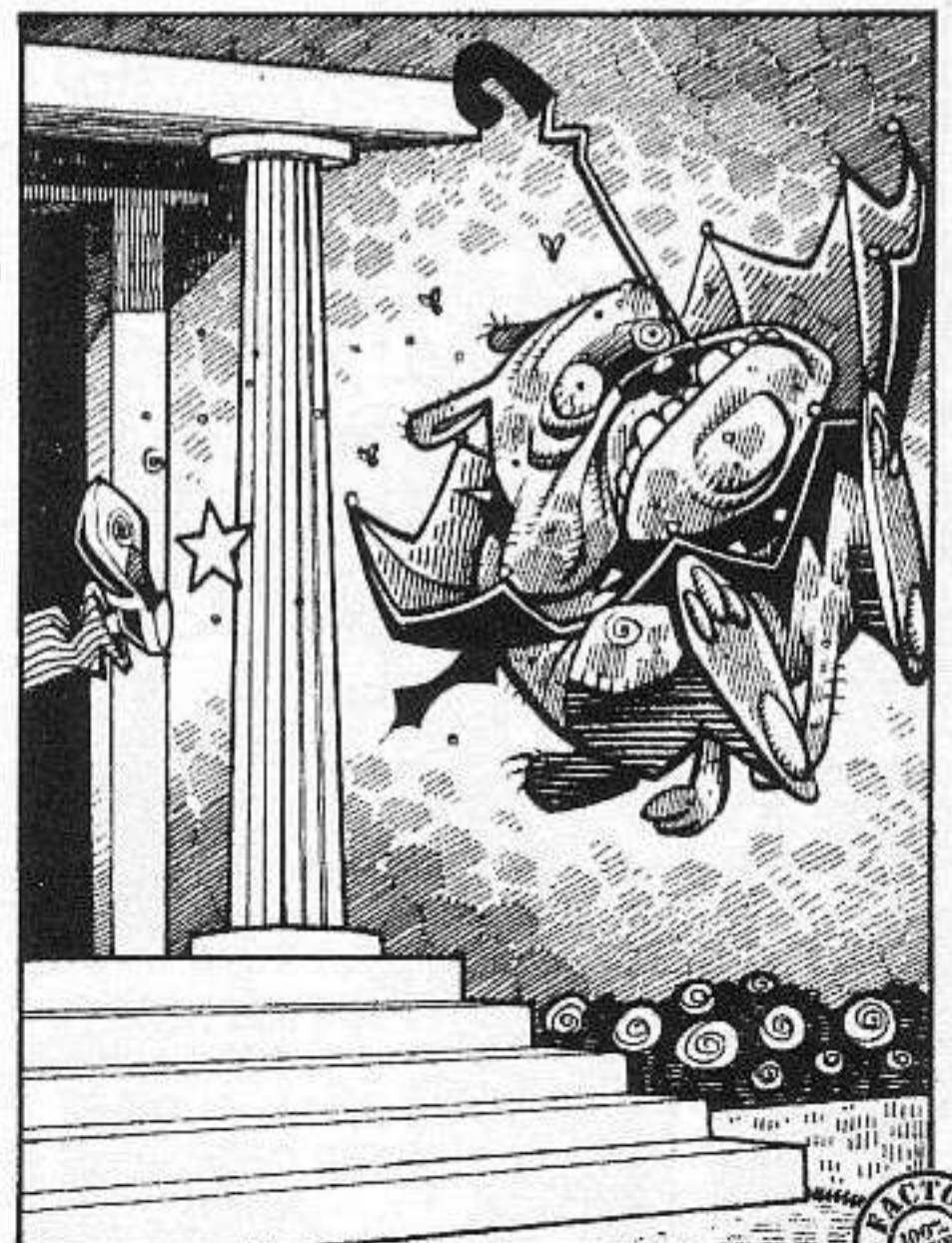
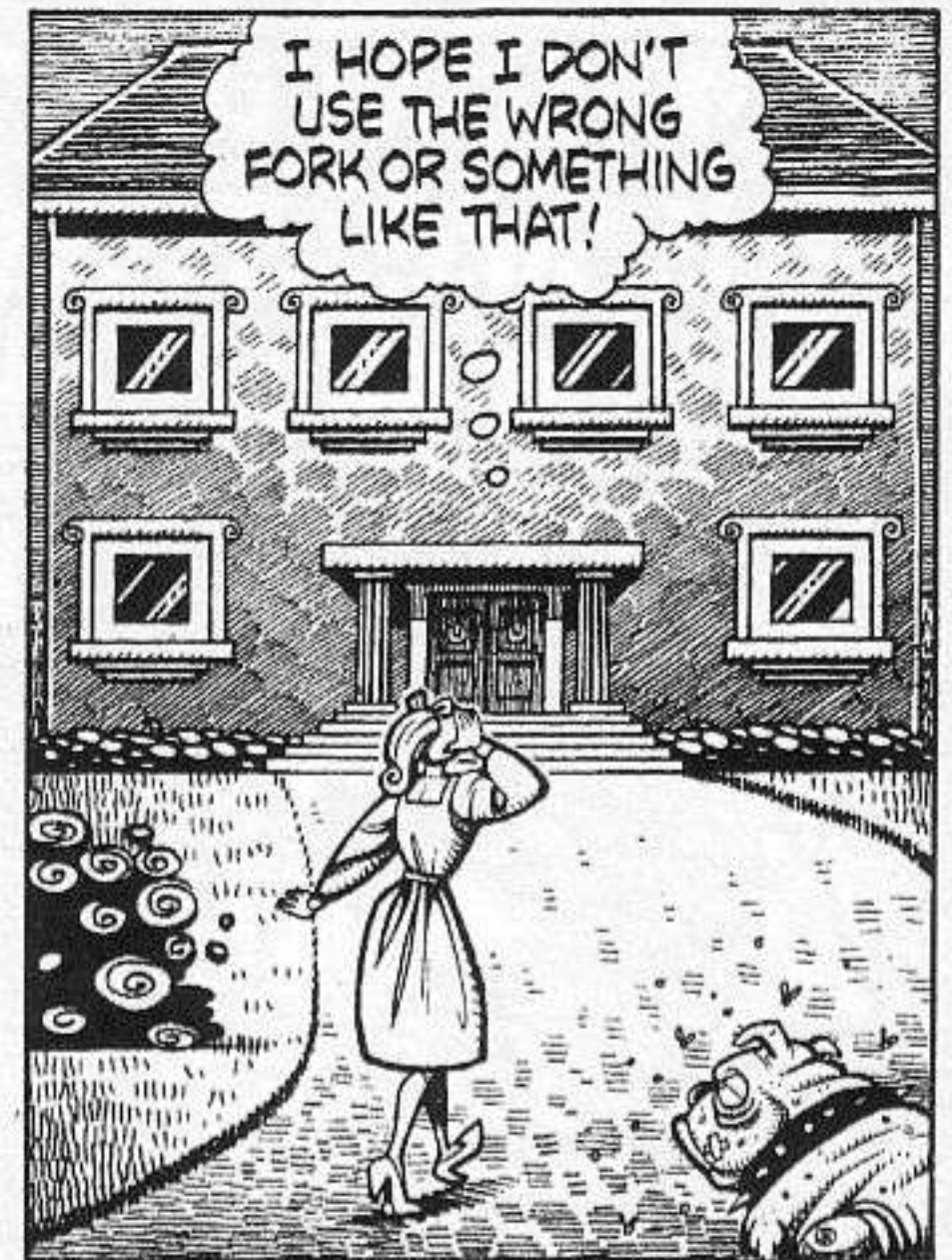
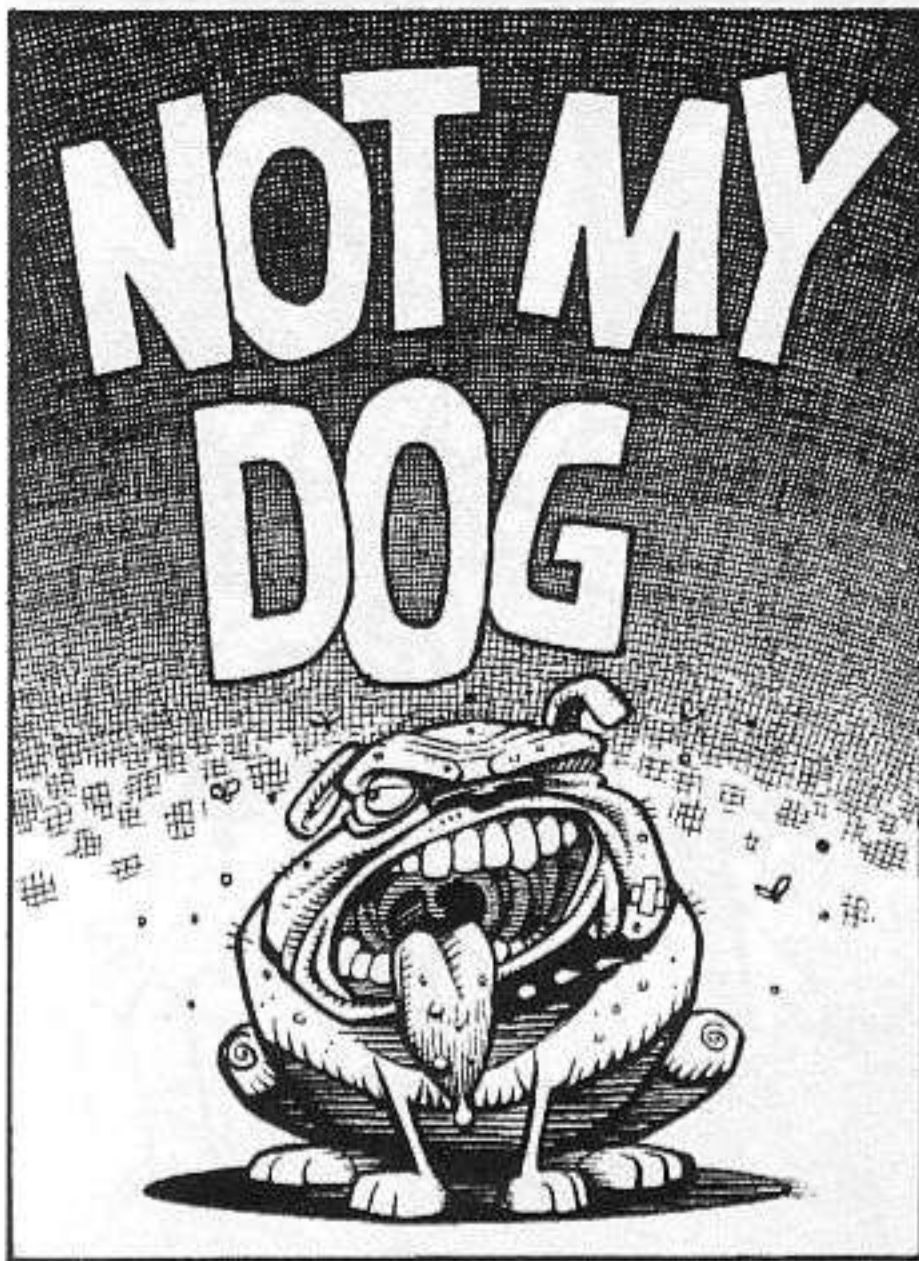


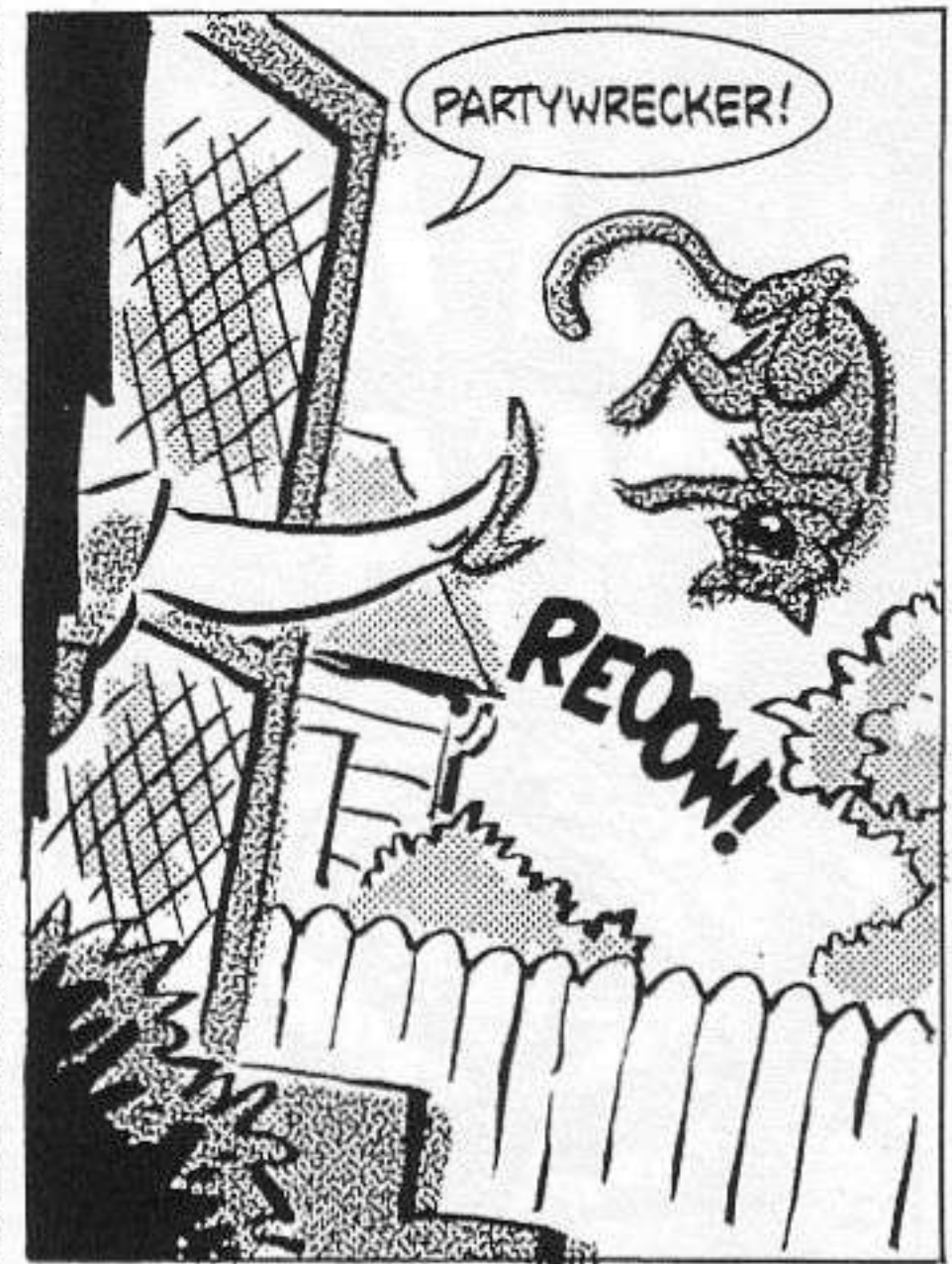
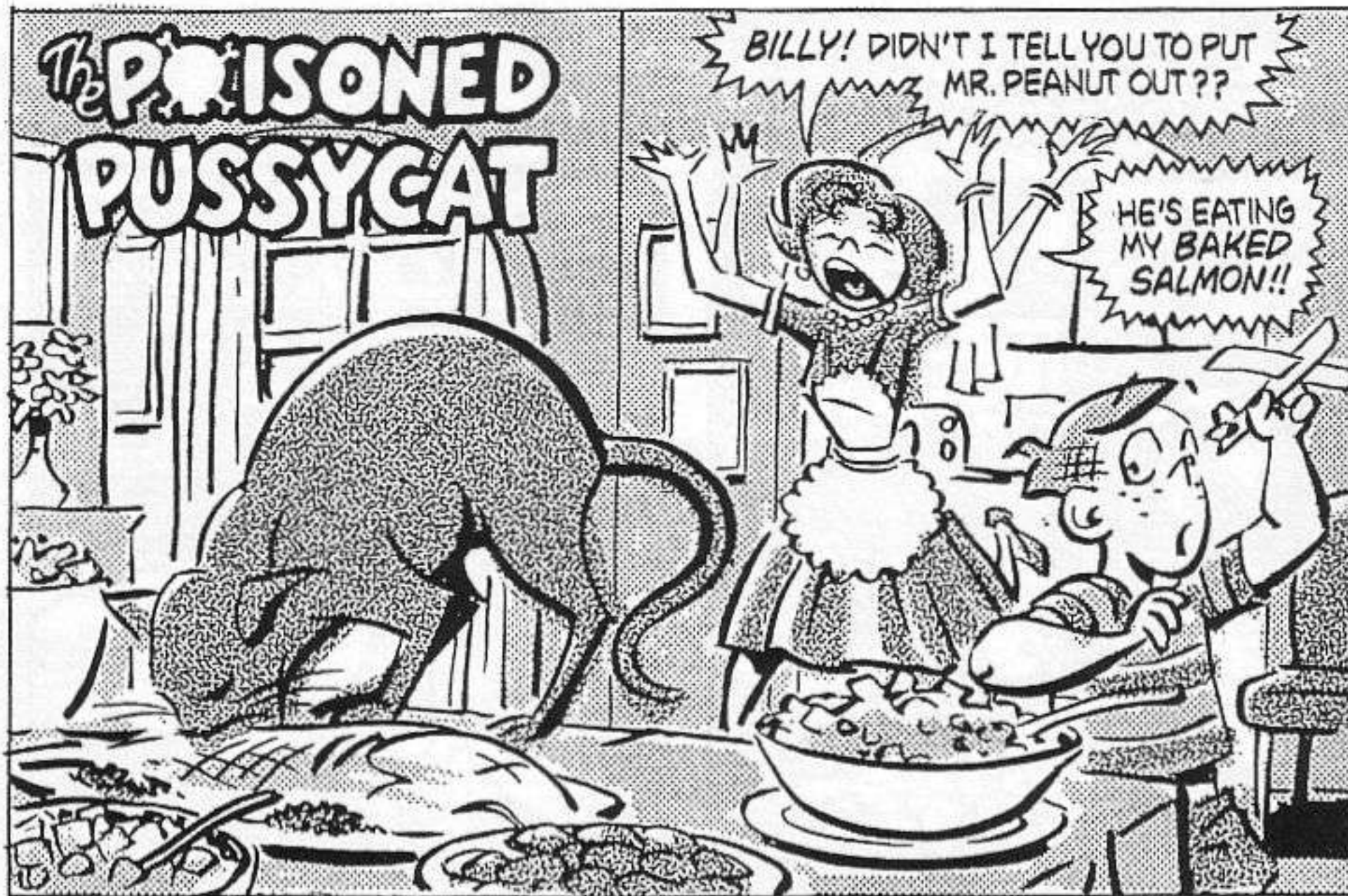
WITH A CRY, PETER RAISED HIS AXE AND STRUCK WITH ALL HIS STRENGTH, BURYING IT IN THE DOG'S MASSIVE HEAD.



FOLLOWING THIS THOUGHTLESS ACT, PETER STEPPED AROUND TO THE OTHER SIDE OF THE BED AND FOUND HIS SON, ALIVE AND UNHARMED.

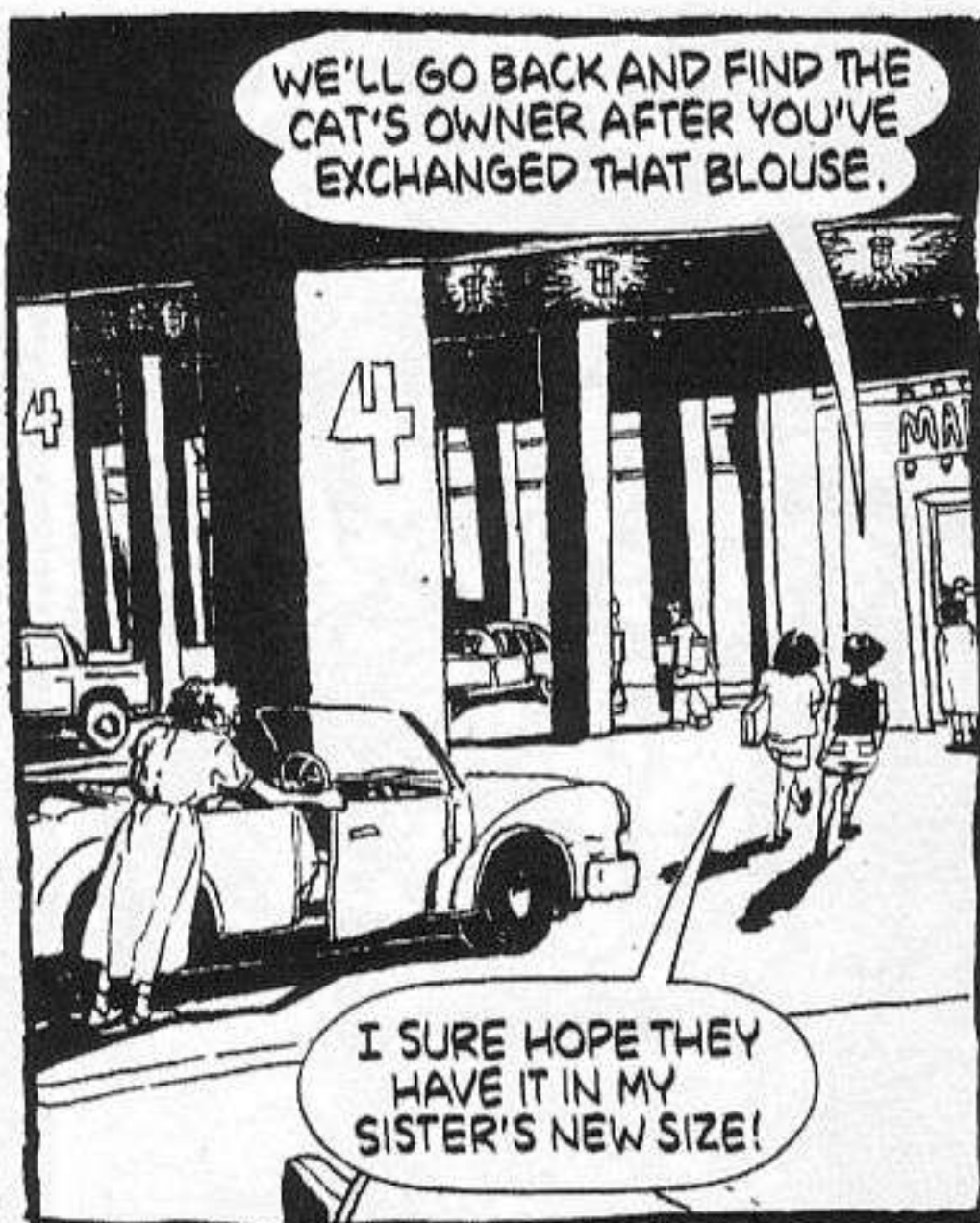
HE ALSO FOUND A DEAD TIMBER WOLF CLENCHING A PIECE OF PRINCE'S BLOODY FUR IN HIS TEETH.



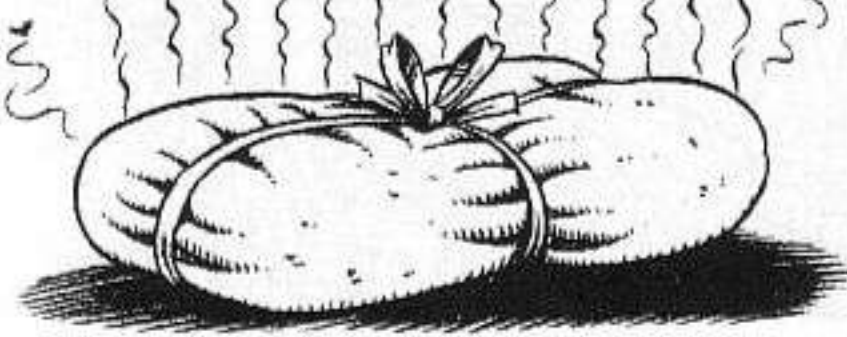




THE DEAD CAT IN THE PACKAGE



ANOTHER DEAD CAT IN A PACKAGE



DEAR ELLEN,
THANKS FOR THE CAT YOU
GAVE ME ON MY BIRTHDAY. I ONLY
WISH SHE HAD LIVED LONGER.



WHEN SHE WAS ALIVE I HAD TO
HIDE HER FROM MY LANDLADY.
BUT KITTY TURNED OUT TO BE
MORE TROUBLE DEAD THAN ALIVE.



I HAD INTENDED TO INCINERATE THE
CORPSE, BUT RAN INTO MY LAND-
LADY IN THE BASEMENT.



SINCE I WAS LATE FOR
WORK, I HAD TO CARRY
KITTY ALONG.

I TRIED TO LEAVE
HER ON THE BUS TO
WORK, BUT COULDN'T.



LADY, YOU
FORGOT YOUR
PACKAGE!

LEAVING IT AT
A RESTAURANT
WAS JUST AS
UNSUCCESSFUL.



MA'AM! YOU
FORGOT YOUR
FANCY PACKAGE!

I EVEN TRIED
THE SUBWAY...



YO, MISS!

...BUT THERE WAS
NO GETTING RID
OF THE THING!

WHEN I REACHED HOME, I DECIDED
TO TAKE ONE LAST LOOK AT KITTY,
AND RECEIVED THE SUPRISE OF MY
LIFE.



IN HER PLACE WAS A LEG OF LAMB.

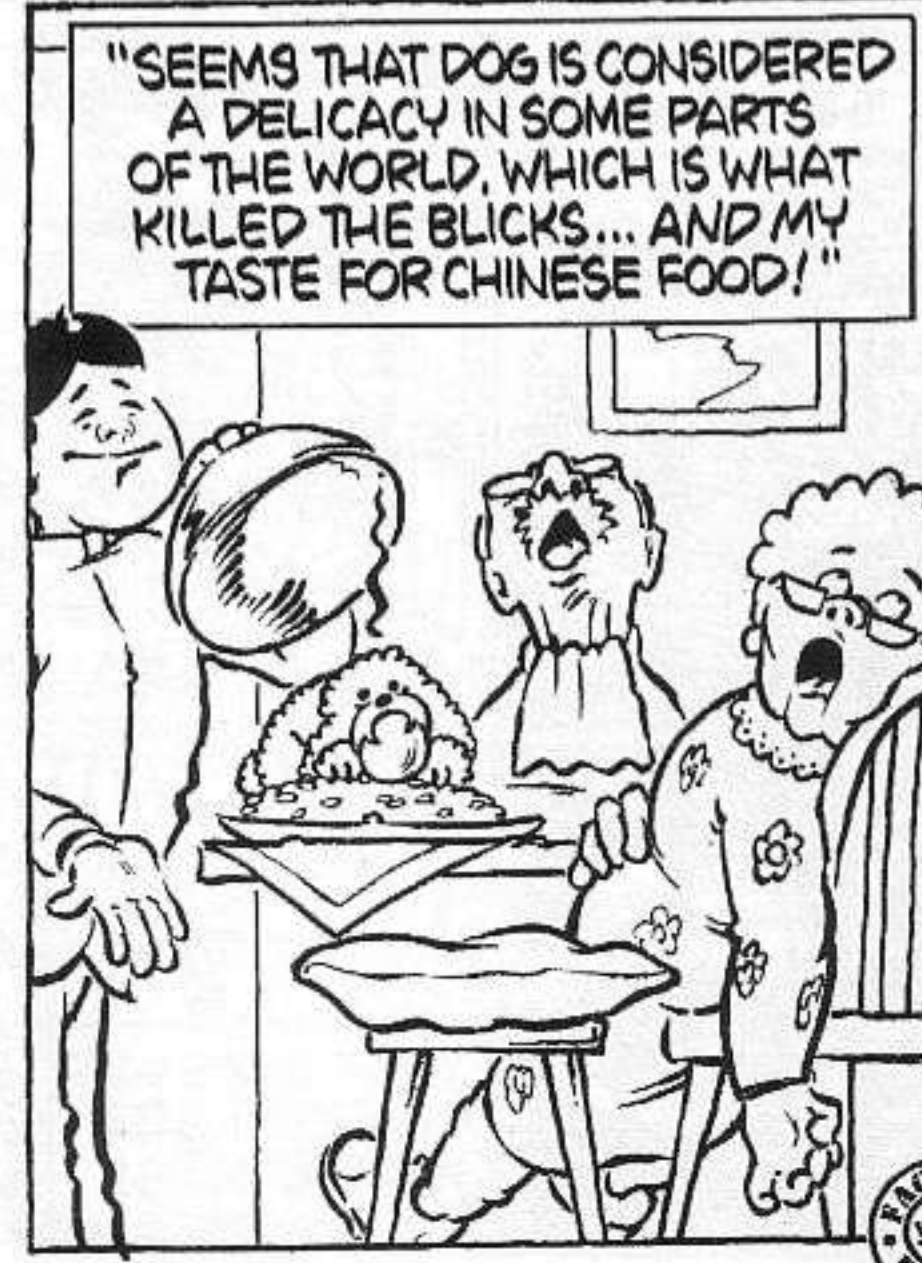
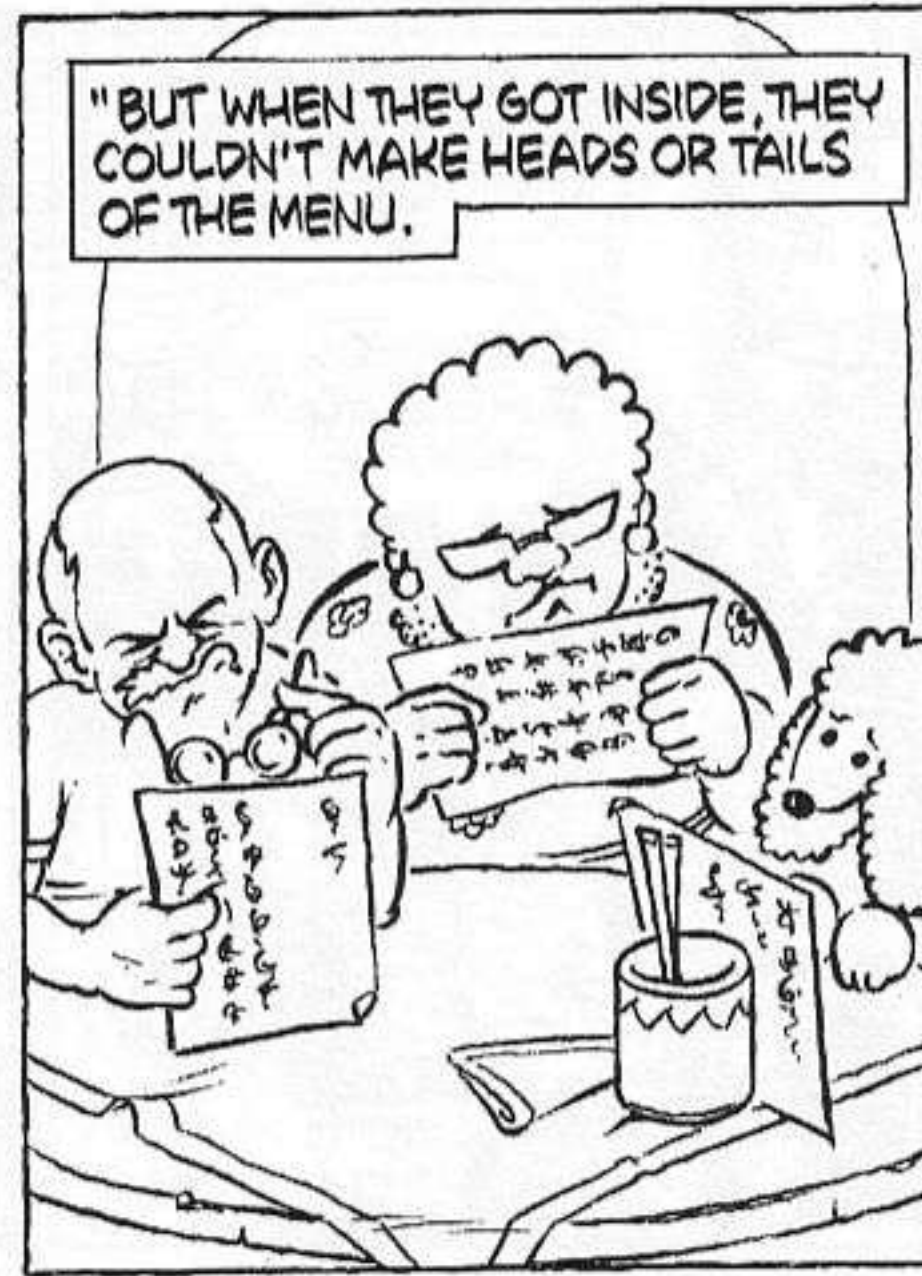
SO YOU SEE, ELLEN, YOUR GIFT HAS
PROVIDED ME WITH NOT ONE, BUT
TWO COMPANIONS! AND I LIKE THE
SECOND EVEN BETTER!

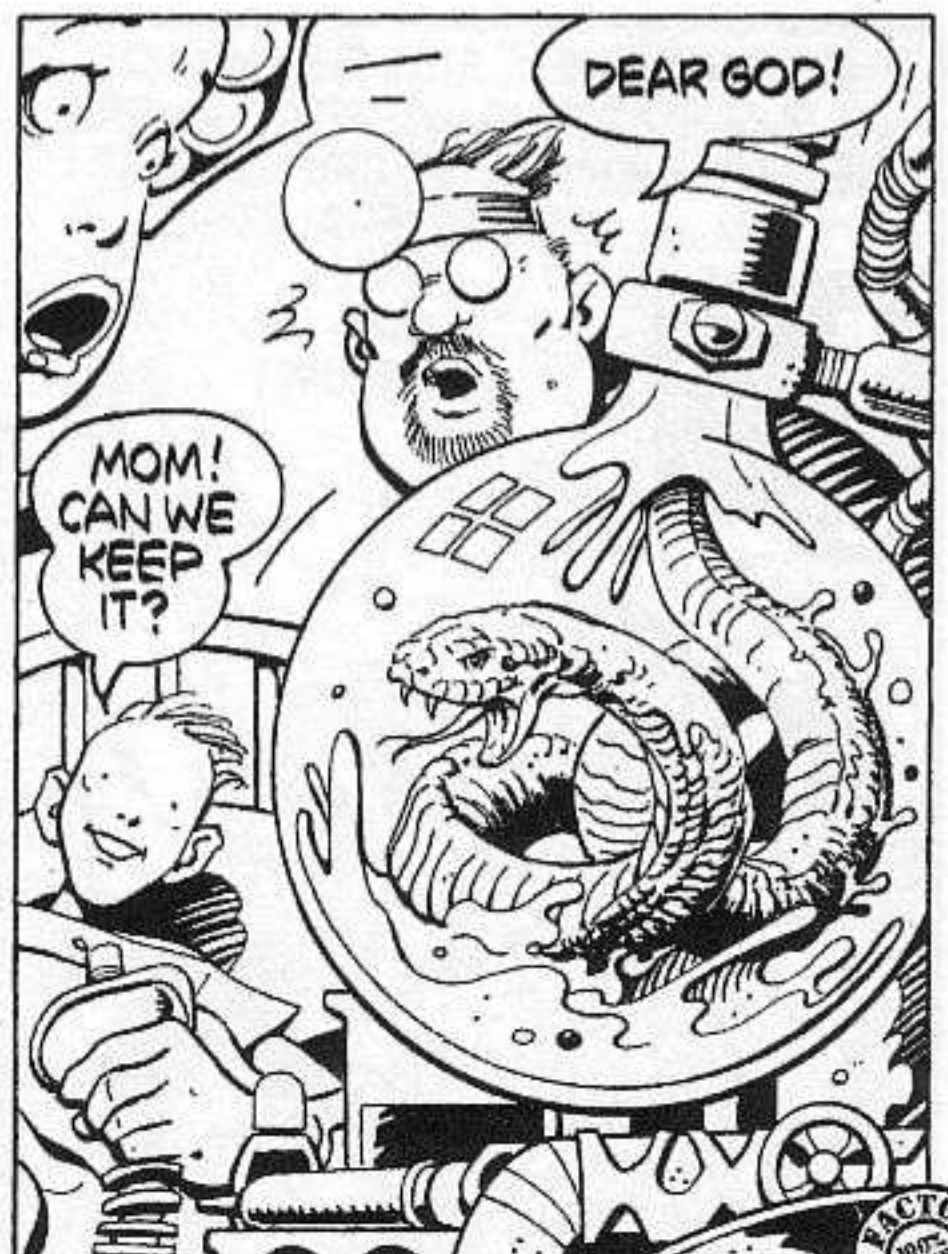
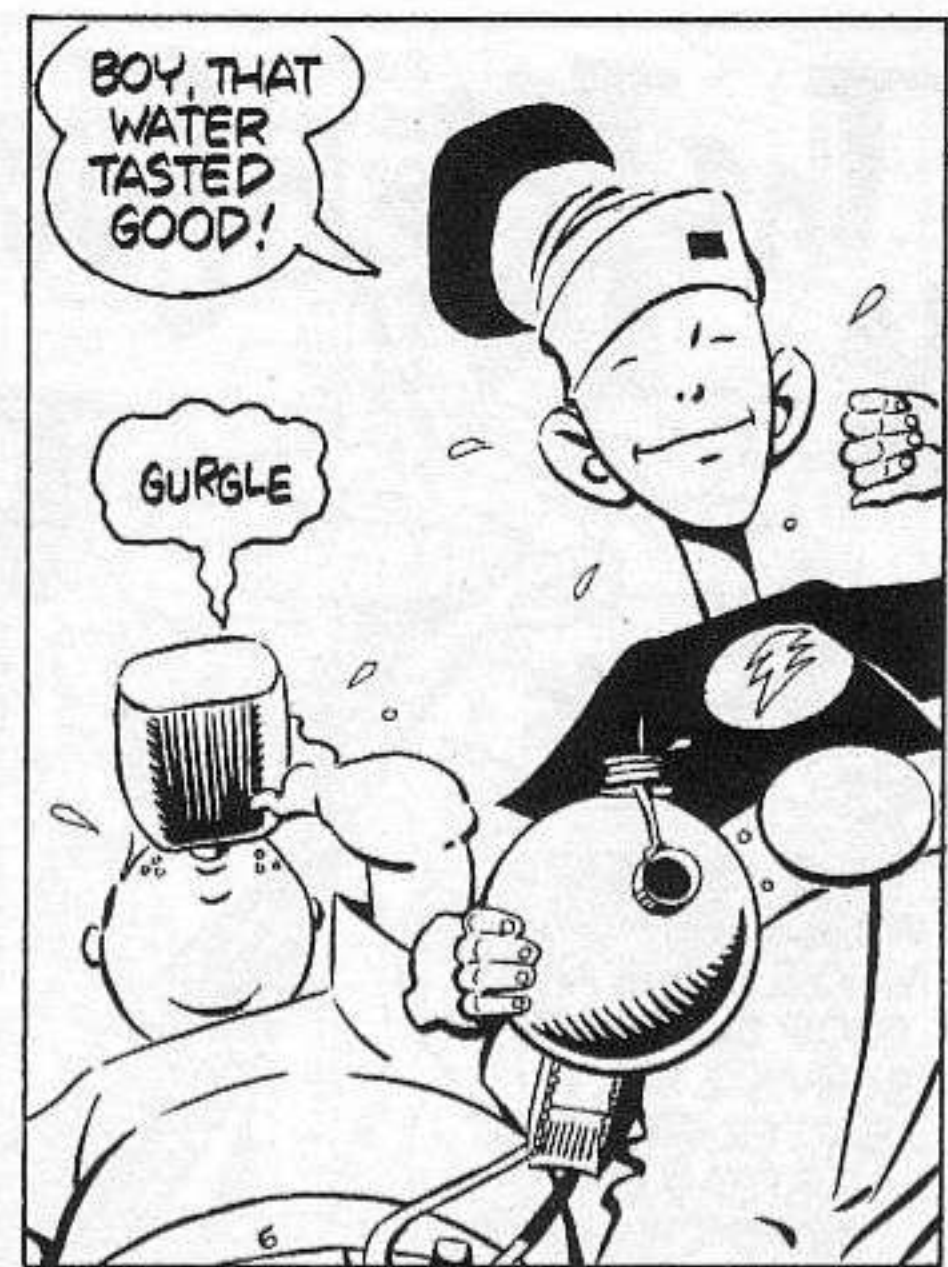
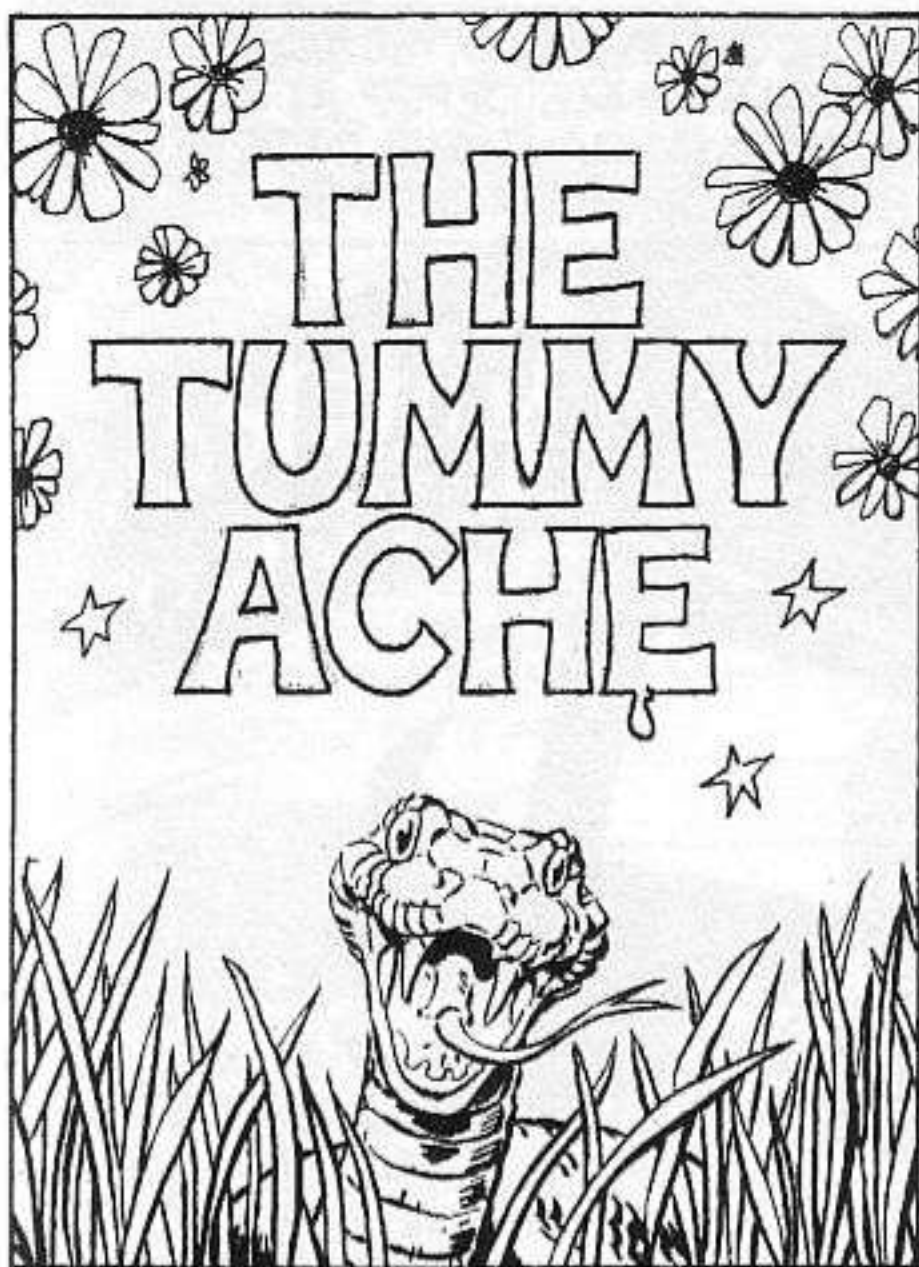


LEG OF LAMB!
MY FAVORITE!

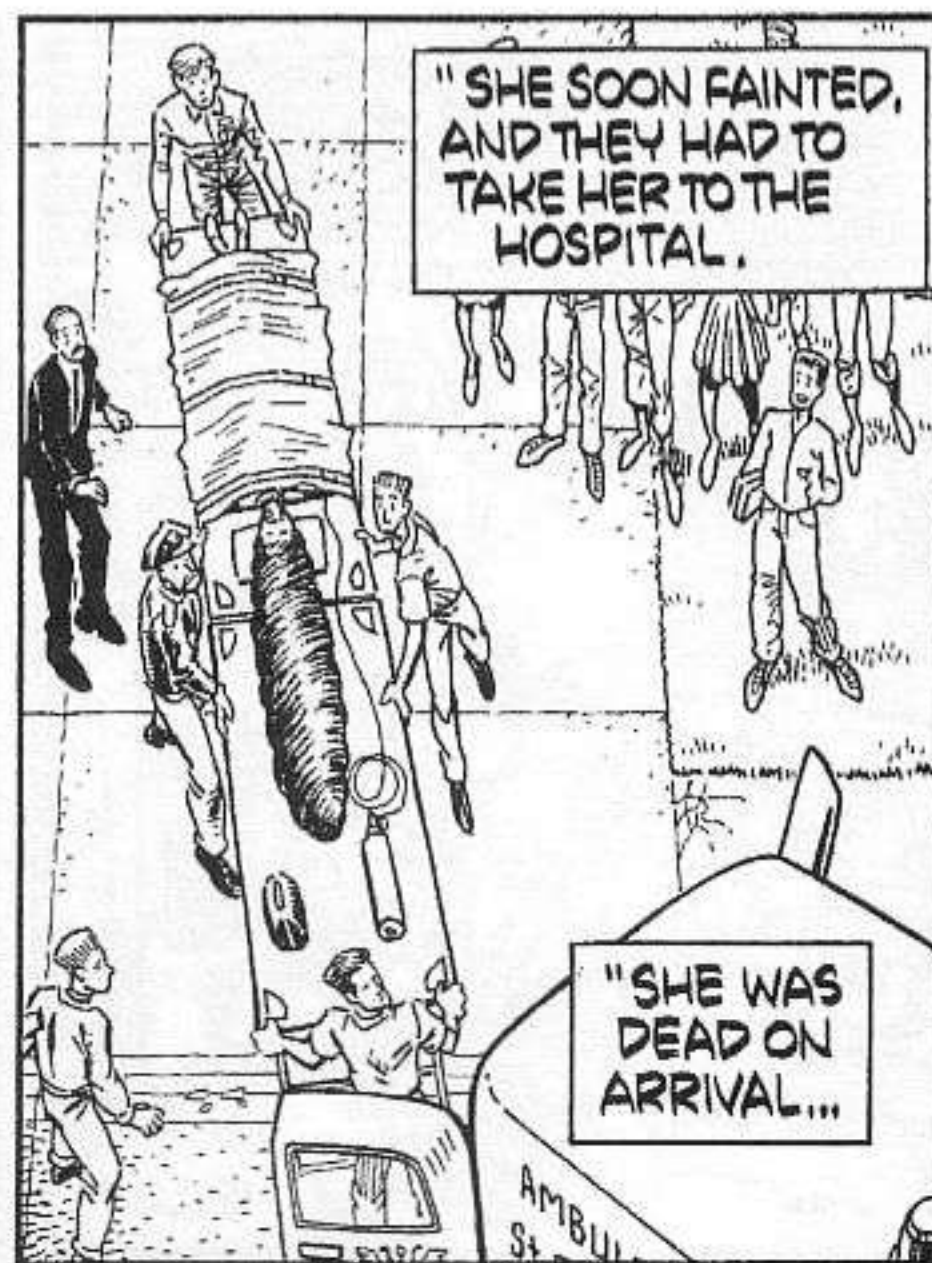
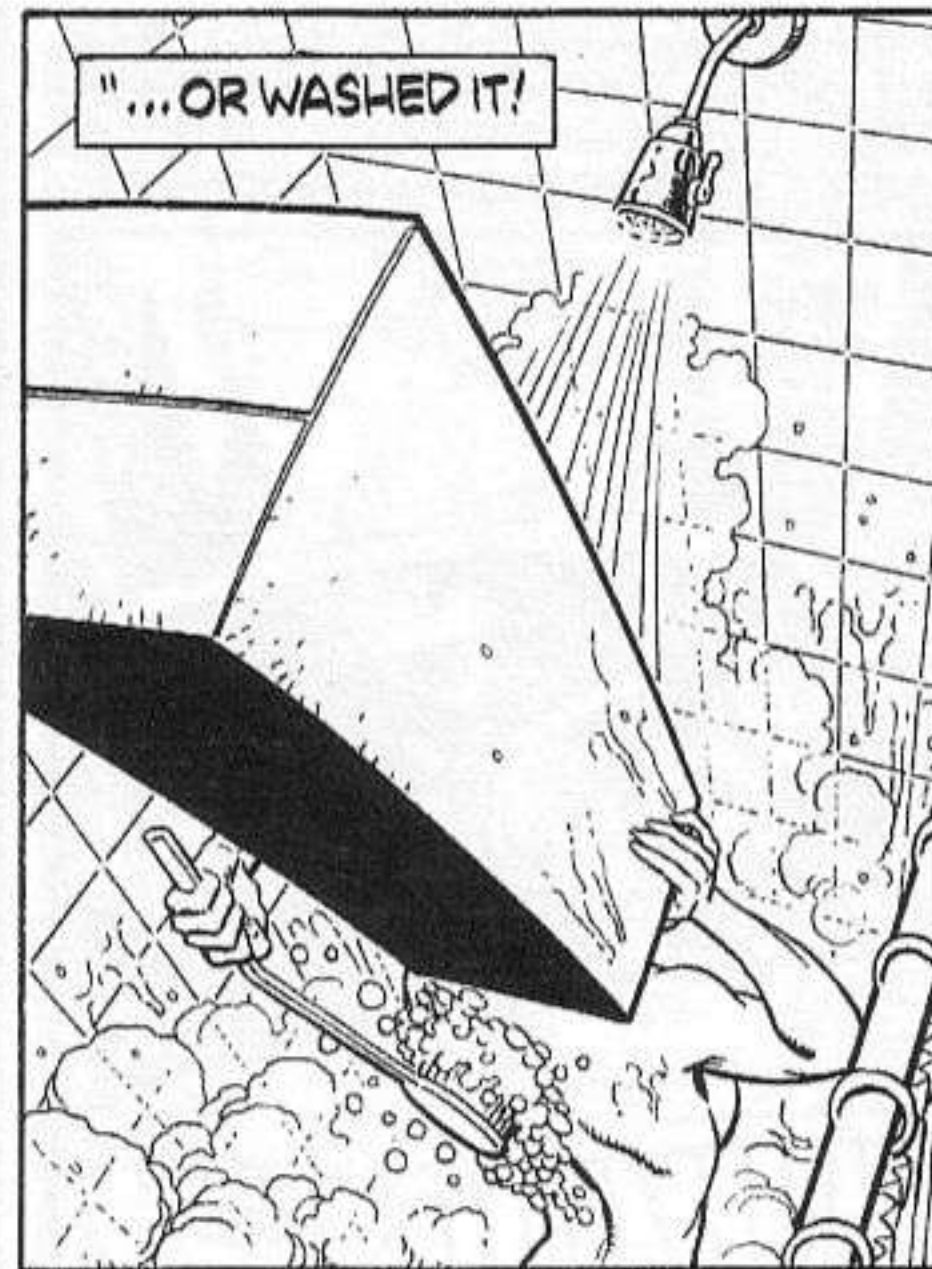
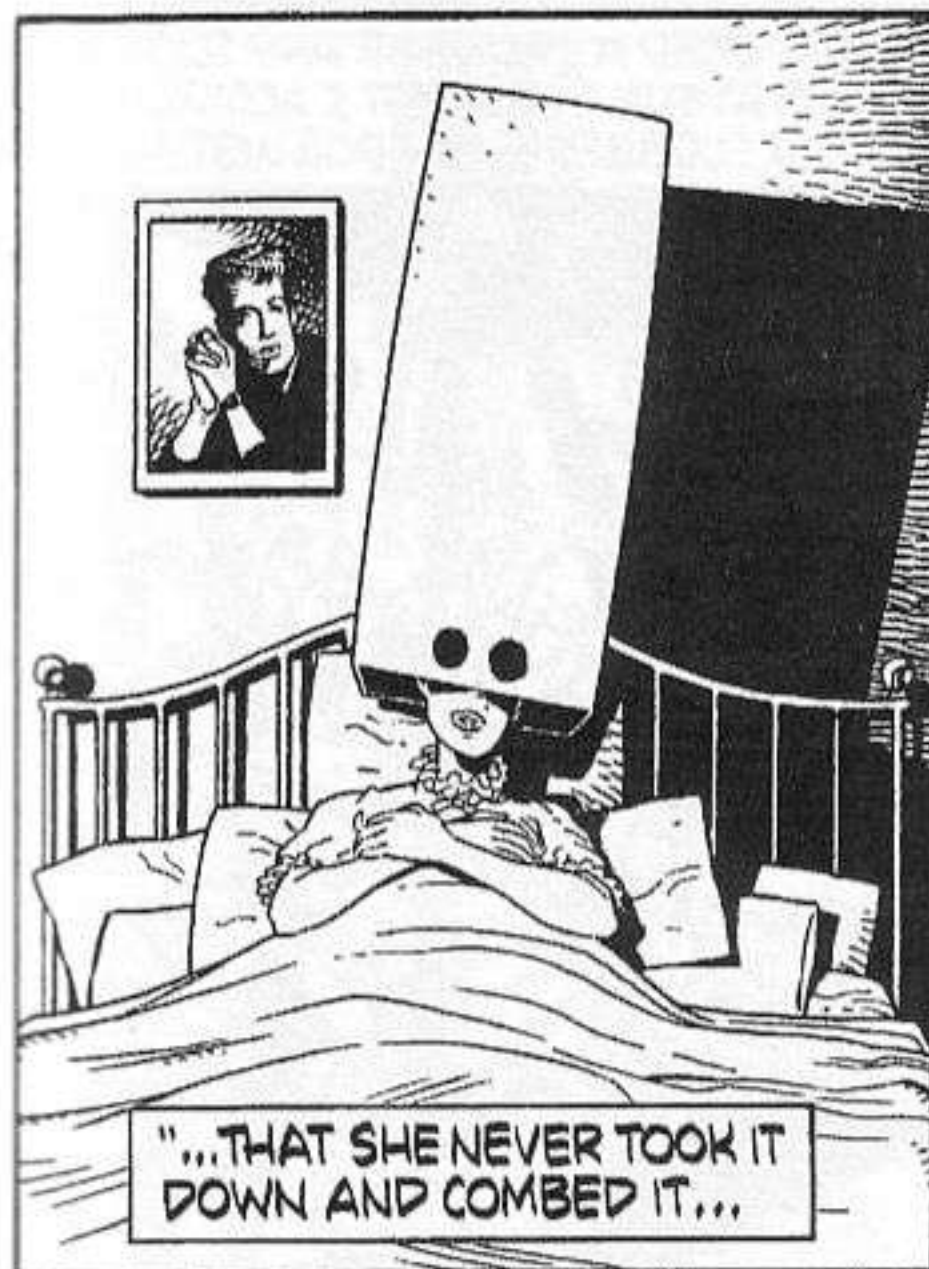
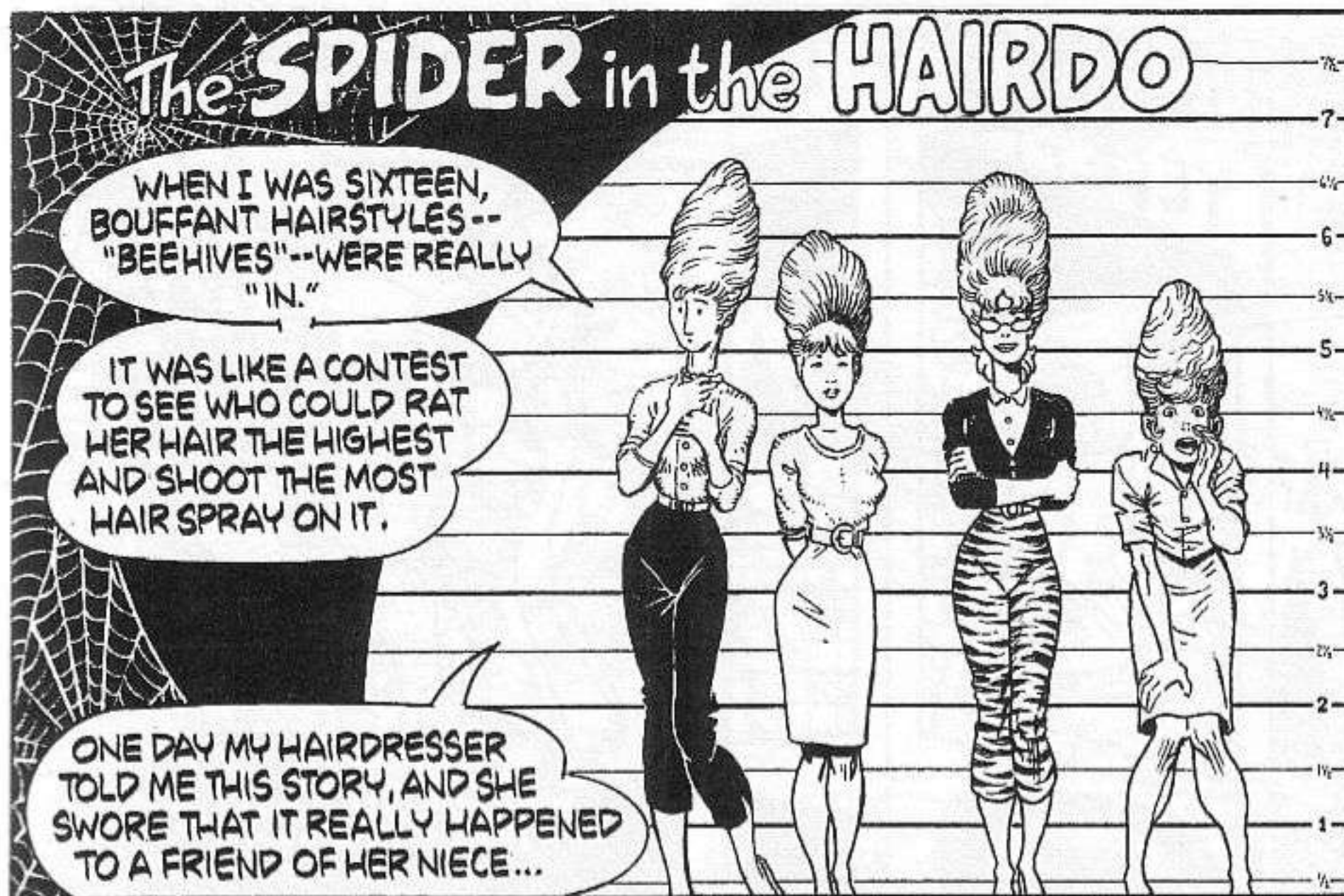
YOURS,
Mary

THE DOG'S DINNER









THE HUNTER'S NIGHTMARE

TELEPHONE

"LESS THAN AN HOUR AGO I WAS RETURNING HOME EMPTY HANDED FROM A HUNTING TRIP WHEN I ACCIDENTALLY BAGGED MYSELF A DEER ... WITH MY CAR.

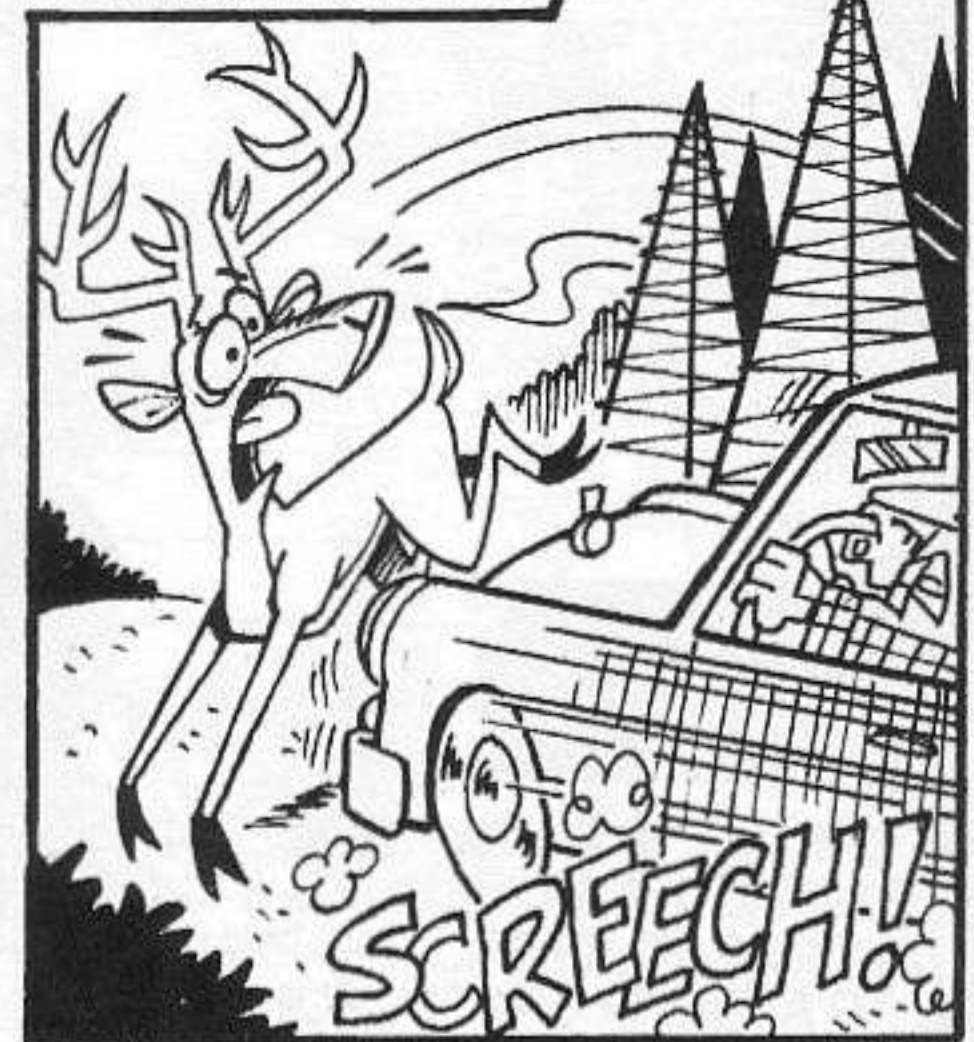
LOOK, I'M JUST OFF HIGHWAY 19 ABOUT TWO MILES FROM CANDLE JUNCTION -- AND I'M BLEEDING PRETTY BAD! CAN YOU SEND OUT A SQUAD CAR RIGHT AWAY?

WHAT?

OKAY, I'LL TELL YOU WHAT HAPPENED ONCE MORE, BUT THIS IS THE LAST TIME.

PROOWFFF!

TELEPHONE



"I KNOW IT'S ILLEGAL, BUT I DECIDED TO KEEP THE DEER ANYWAY."

"WELL, I WAS SURE THE DEER WAS DEAD, BUT PRETTY SOON I FOUND OUT DIFFERENTLY. I WAS DRIVING DOWN THE ROAD WHEN IT STARTED THRASHING AROUND."

"I GRABBED A CROWBAR AND TOOK A SWING AT THE DEER, BUT I ACCIDENTALLY CLOBBERED MY DOG INSTEAD."

ROOF!
ROOF!

WHAT THE HELL?

KLONK!

YIPE!

"THAT'S WHEN KING BIT ME."

YEOW!

LOOK, I NEED IMMEDIATE ASSISTANCE! MY DOG HAS ME CORNERED IN THIS TELEPHONE BOOTH AND THE DEAD DEER IS KICKING OUT THE WINDOWS OF MY STATION WAGON!

RRRR

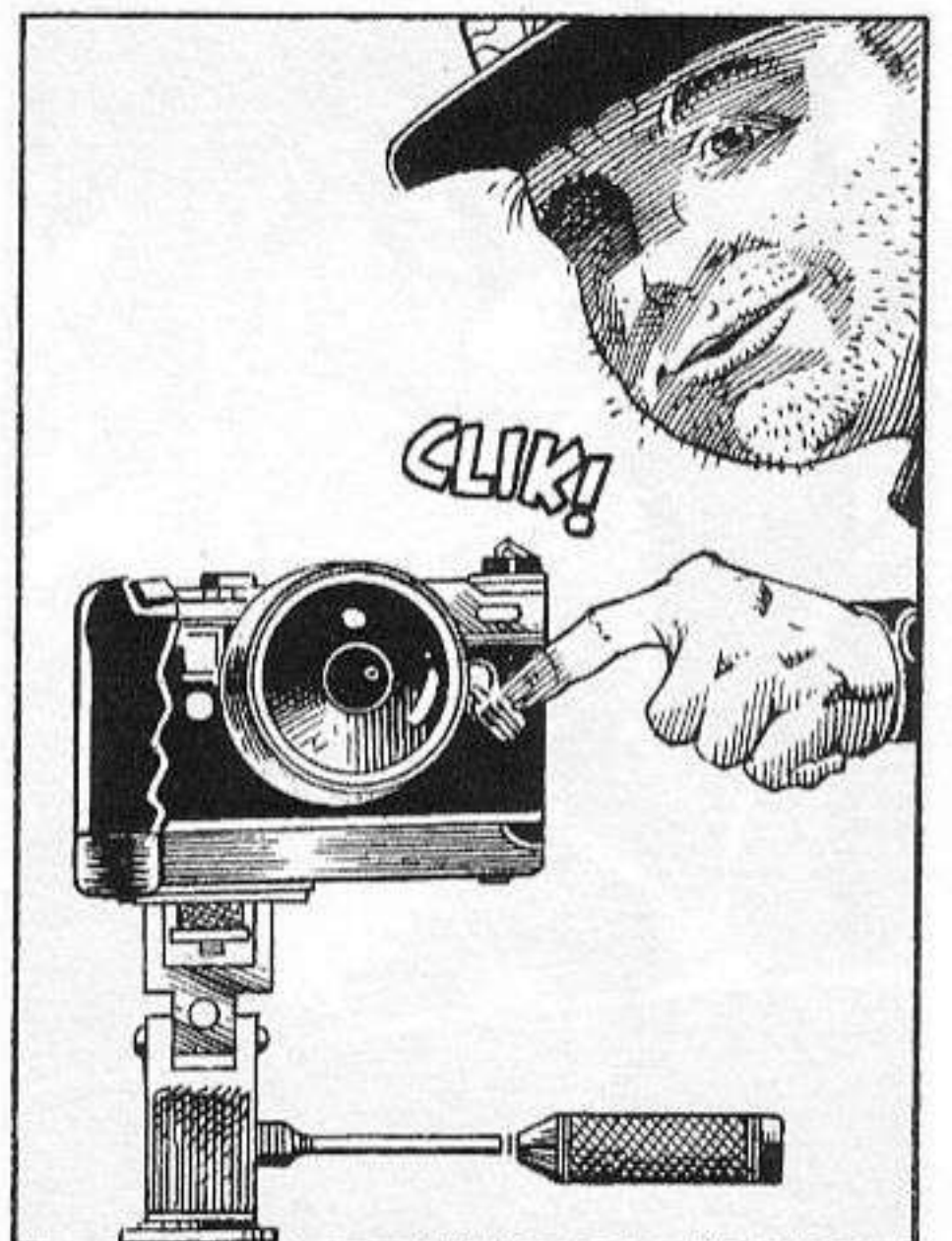
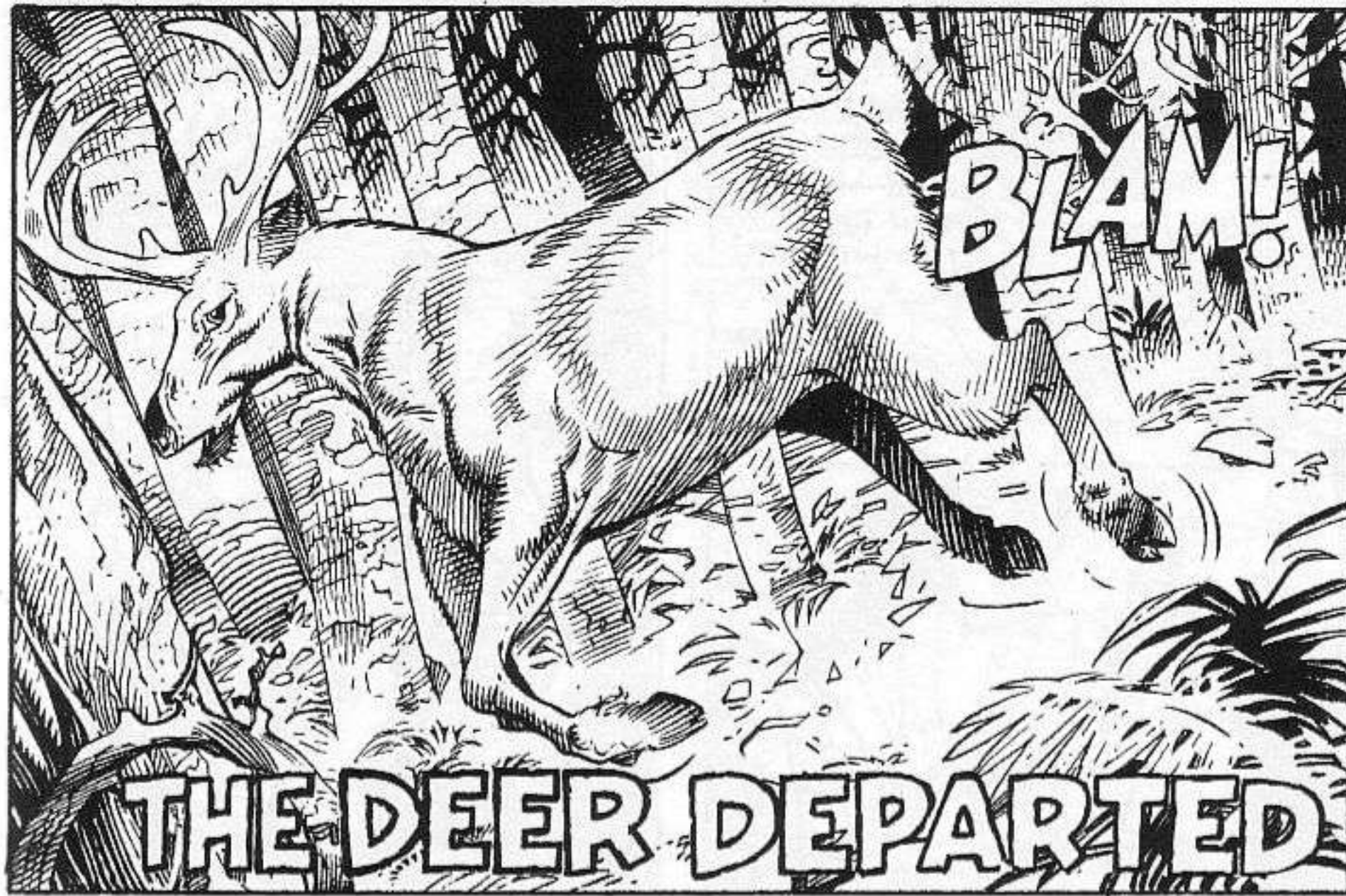
HELLO?

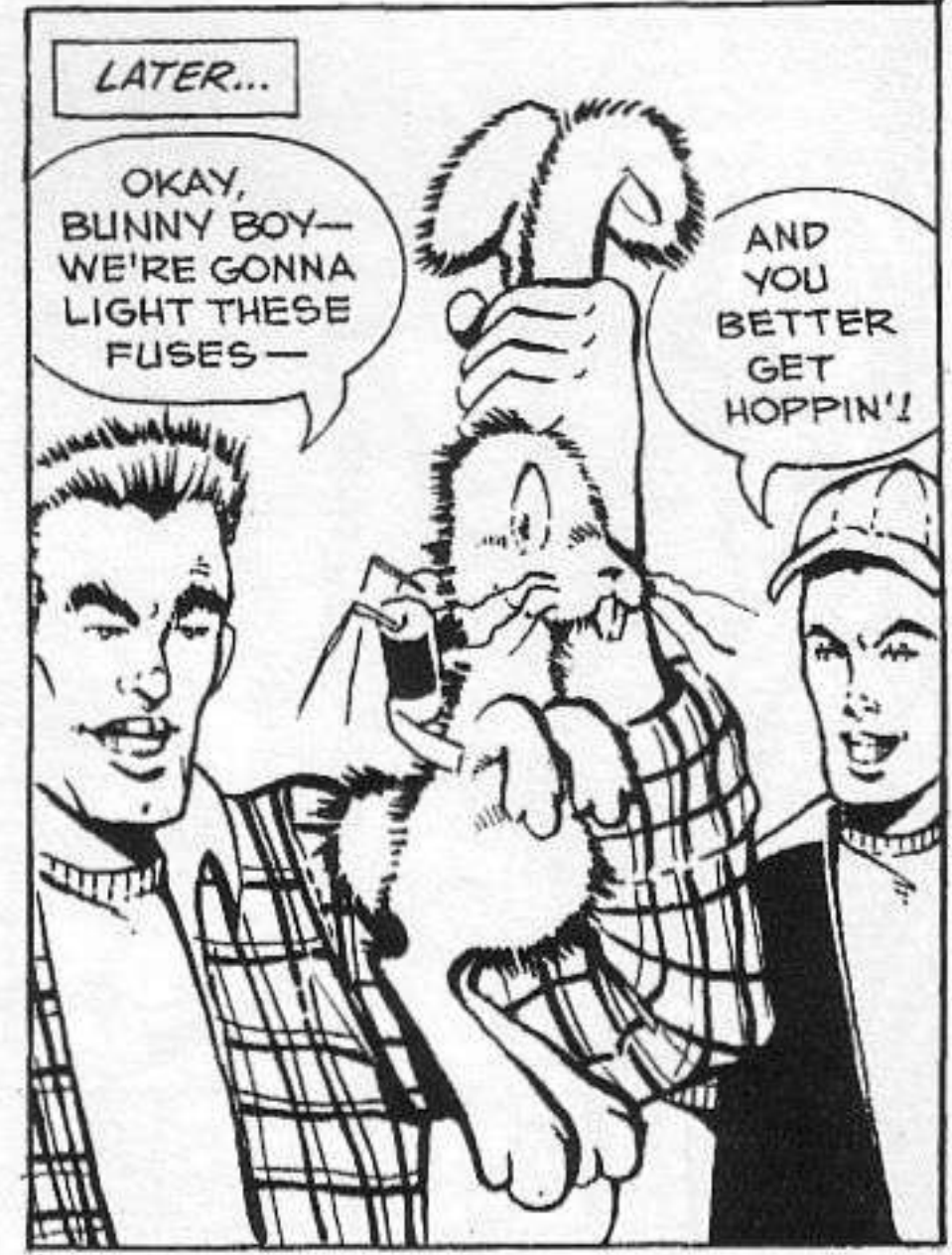
HA HA HA

IS ANYBODY THERE?

HA HA HA

HA





SHOOTING THE BULL



SO, NOW THAT WE BOUGHT TEN BOXES OF SHELLS, YOU KNOW ANY GOOD HUNTING SPOTS?

THERE'S A RANCHER UP THE ROAD WHO DON'T MIND HUNTERS MUCH WHEN HE'S IN A GOOD MOOD.



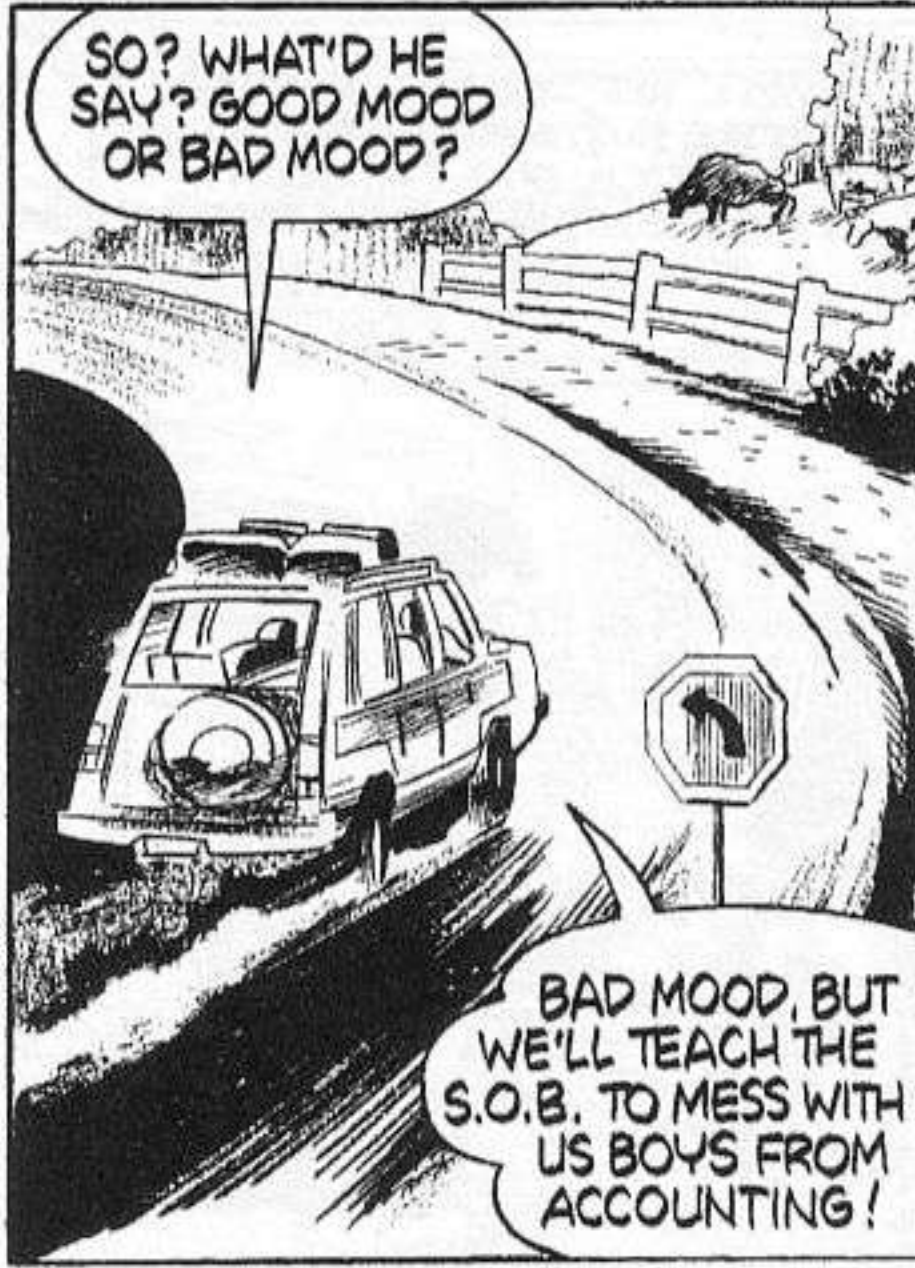
SOON... GUY DOWN AT THE AMMO SHOP SAID YOU MIGHT LET US HUNT ON YOUR PROPERTY.

SURE, IF YOU DO ME A FAVOR. I GOT AN OLD BULL I'VE BEEN MEANING TO GET RID OF.

SHOOT HIM FOR ME, WILL YA?



I CAN HAVE SOME FUN WITH THIS. PULL A FAST ONE ON THE GUYS.



SO? WHAT'D HE SAY? GOOD MOOD OR BAD MOOD?

BAD MOOD, BUT WE'LL TEACH THE S.O.B. TO MESS WITH US BOYS FROM ACCOUNTING!



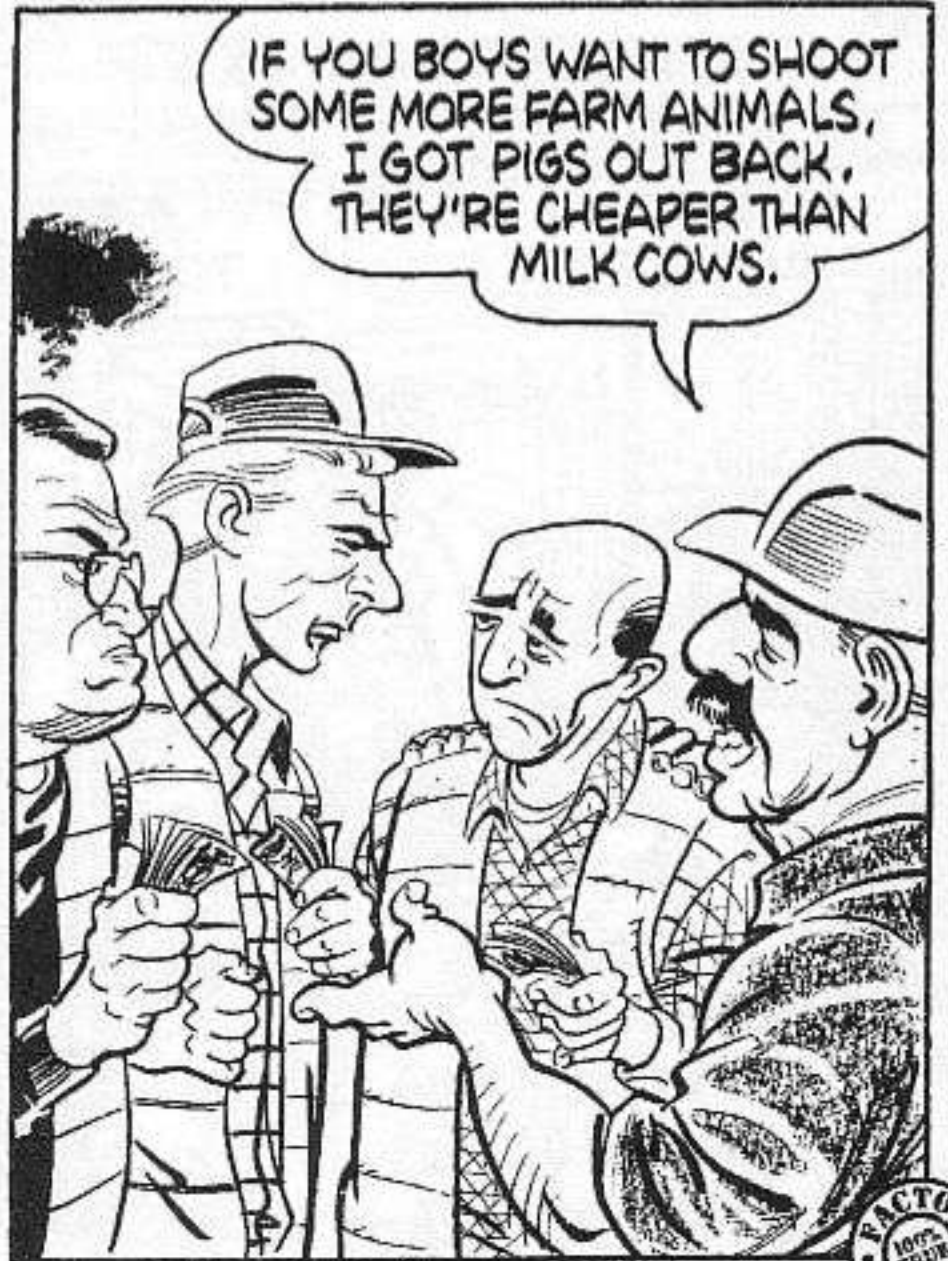
ONE PRIZE BULL REDUCED TO GROUND BEEF!

THAT'S SHOWING HIM!

OUR TURN!

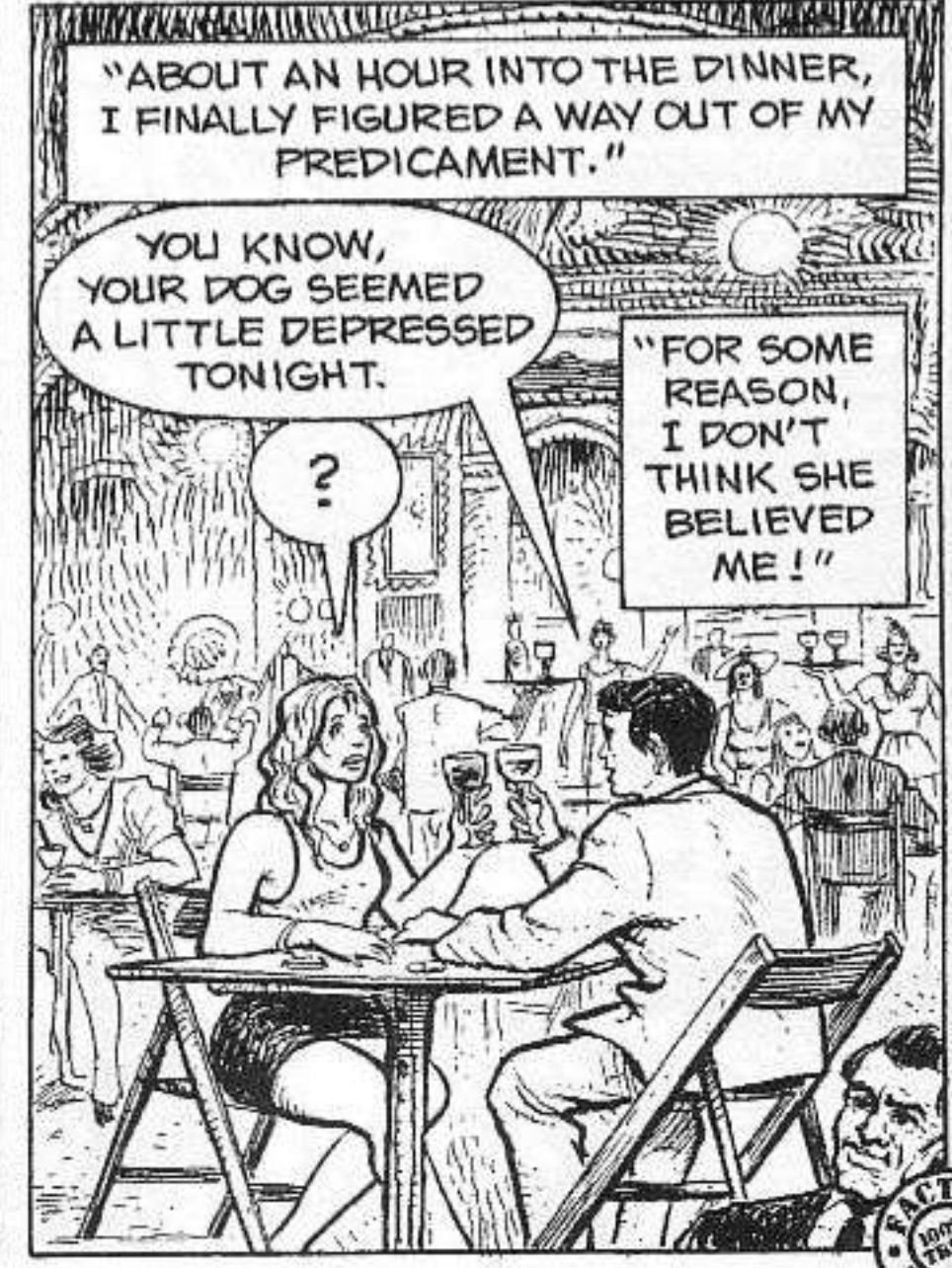


EAT LEAD, ELSIE!



IF YOU BOYS WANT TO SHOOT SOME MORE FARM ANIMALS, I GOT PIGS OUT BACK. THEY'RE CHEAPER THAN MILK COWS.

THE DOG IN THE HIGH-RISE



the Flying Kitten



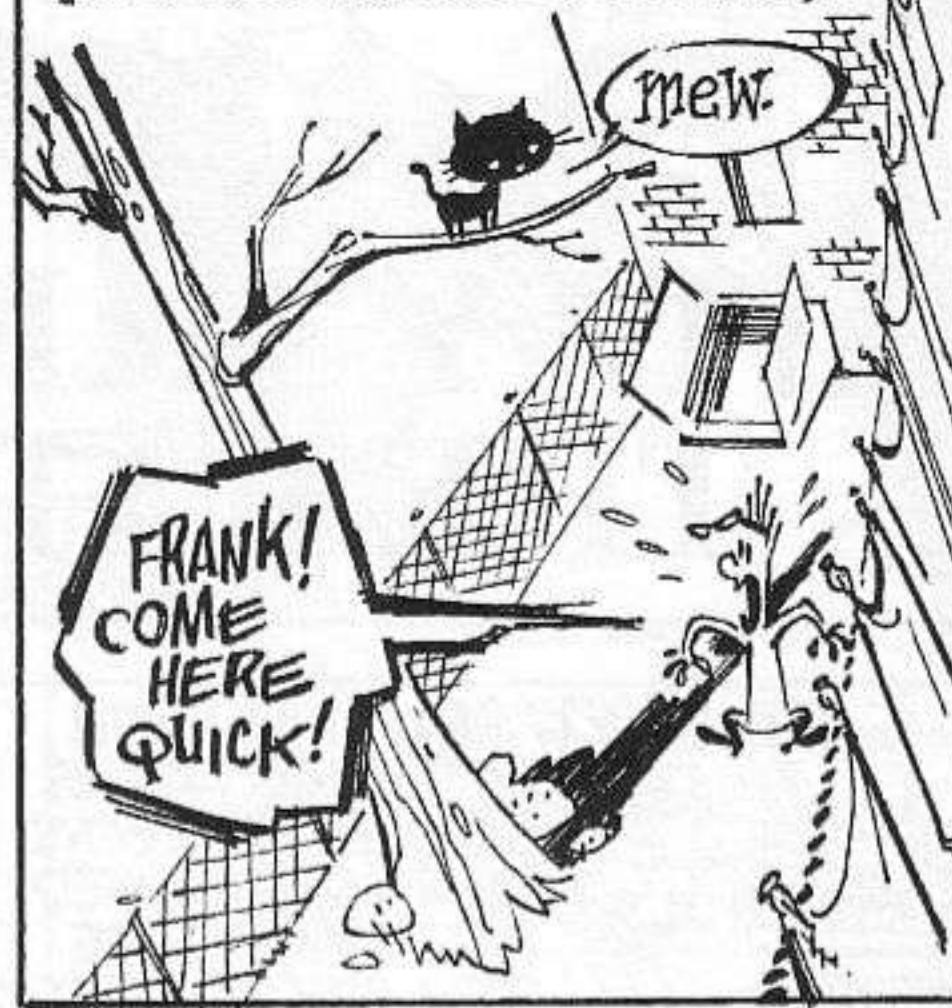
There once was a couple who found a cute stray kitten and decided to keep it as a pet.

LOOK, FRANK! ISN'T SHE THE MOST DARLING THING?

Uh-oh! SOMETHIN' TELLS ME WE JUST GAINED A NEW MEMBER OF THE FAMILY!



One day, though, the naughty little kitten climbed to the top branch of a birch tree in their backyard and refused to come down.



After lots of fruitless coaxing,...

HERE, KITTY KITTY KITTY!

C'MON, PUSS-PUSS!



...the couple looped a rope over the branch, hoping to pull it low enough for them to reach their stranded pet.

FRANK! YOU'RE PULLING TOO HARD! IF WE'RE NOT CAREFUL, THE ROPE IS GOING TO...



Afterwards, the couple searched high and low for the kitten, but were unable to find it.



A week later, while grocery shopping they met one of their neighbors in the checkout line. She was carrying a bag of cat food.

WHY, HAZEL! I DIDN'T KNOW YOU OWNED A CAT!



"...BUT JOE AND I WERE SITTING OUT ON THE PATIO THE OTHER DAY WHEN THIS KITTEN DROPPED OUT OF THE SKY, JUST LIKE THAT, FELL RIGHT INTO JOE'S LAP!"



TO SUM UP, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN OF THE JURY, I WOULD LIKE TO TELL YOU A LITTLE STORY...

KITTY TAKES THE RAP

THIS ACTUALLY HAPPENED TO ONE OF THIS COUNTRY'S GREATEST CRIMINAL ATTORNEYS, A FORMER TEACHER OF MINE, AND I THINK IT MAY HELP YOU IN REACHING YOUR VERDICT!

"YEARS AGO, WHEN MY TEACHER AND HIS BROTHER WERE BOYS, THEIR MOTHER BAKED A DUTCH APPLE PIE FOR A SPECIAL EVENT..."

DON'T YOU BOYS TOUCH THAT PIE WHILE I'M OUT!

"BUT THE PIE SMELLED WONDERFUL AND THE BOYS COULDN'T RESIST..."

I BET WE COULD EACH TAKE A TINY BITE WITHOUT LEAVING A MARK!

THIS PIE IS GOING TO WIN ME A BLUE RIBBON AT THE COUNTY FAIR!

OKAY, MOM!

LET'S TRY!

"ONE BITE BECAME SEVERAL, UNTIL A MAJOR CHUNK OF THE PIE HAD BEEN EATEN..."

HOW ARE WE GOING TO GET OUT OF THIS ONE??

I HEAR MOM'S CAR!

"THE FUTURE LAWYER GRABBED THE FAMILY CAT—

"...AND SHOVED ITS FACE INTO THE PIE, SMEARING IT WITH CRUMBS."

WE TRIED TO STOP HER, MOM!

AACK!

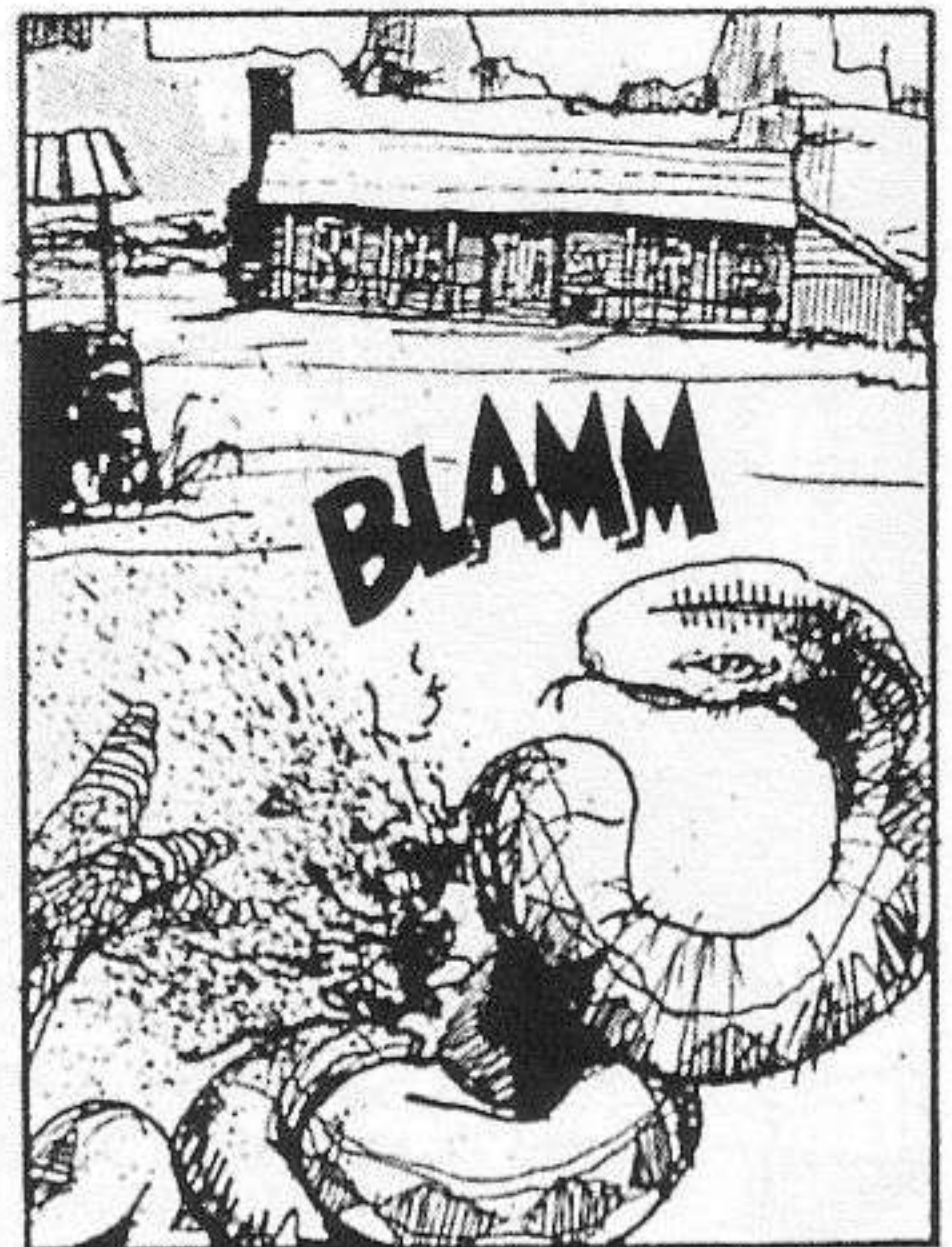
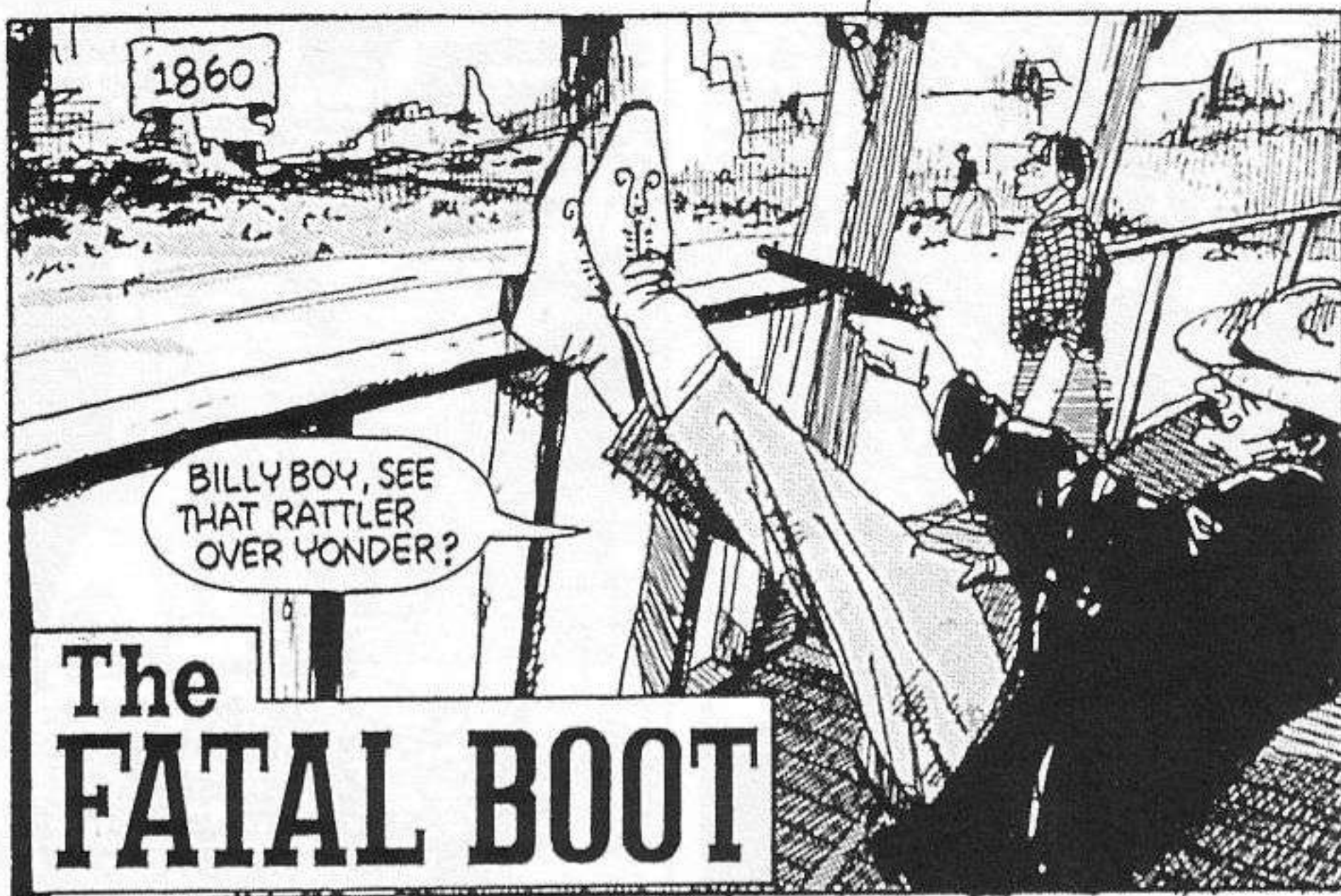
"THE MOTHER, SEEING WHAT SHE INTERPRETED AS GUILT WRITTEN ALL OVER THE CAT'S FACE, IMMEDIATELY THREW IT OUT THE BACK DOOR INTO A STREAM THAT RAN BEHIND THE HOUSE!"

MEOWOW!

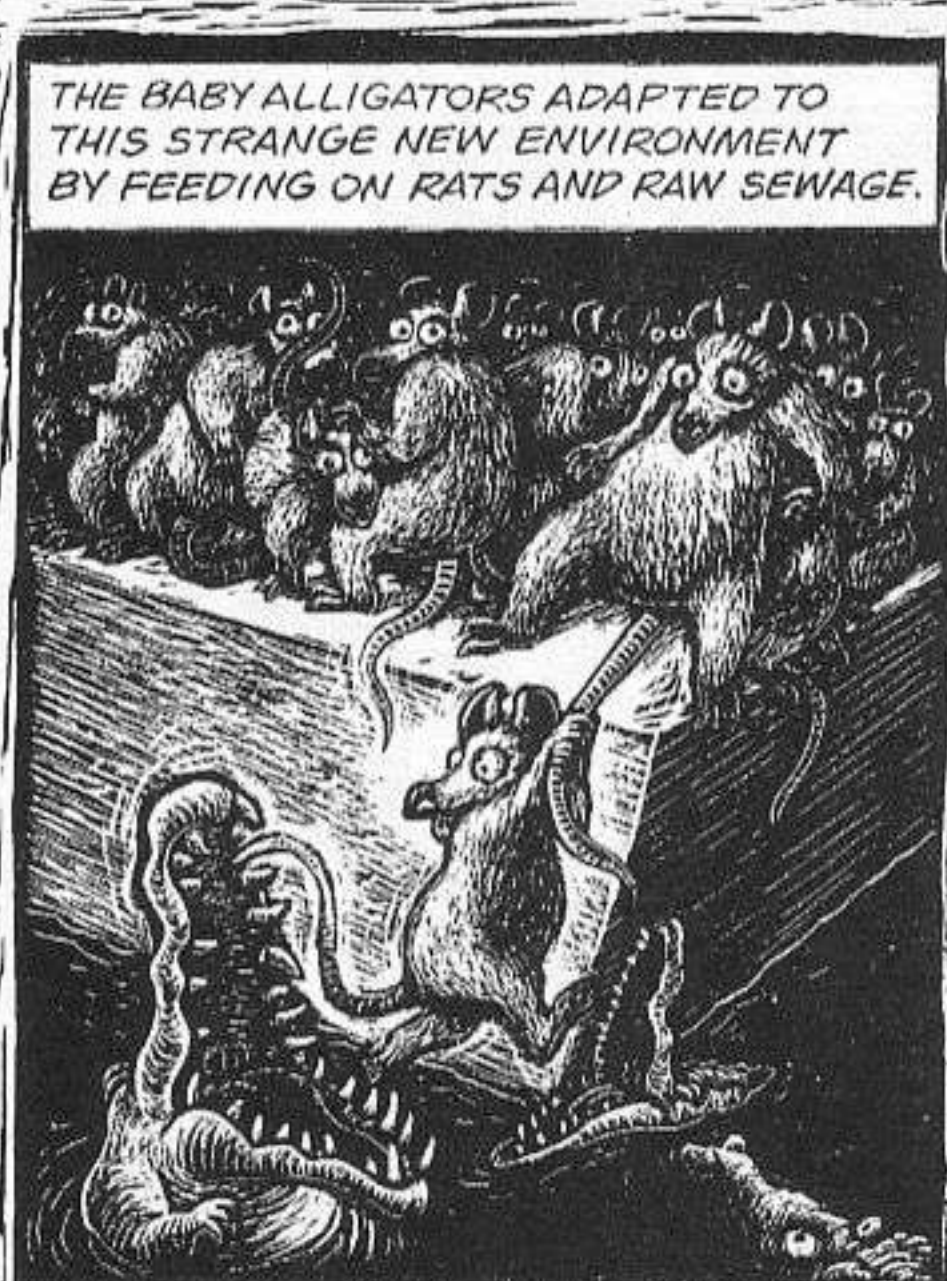
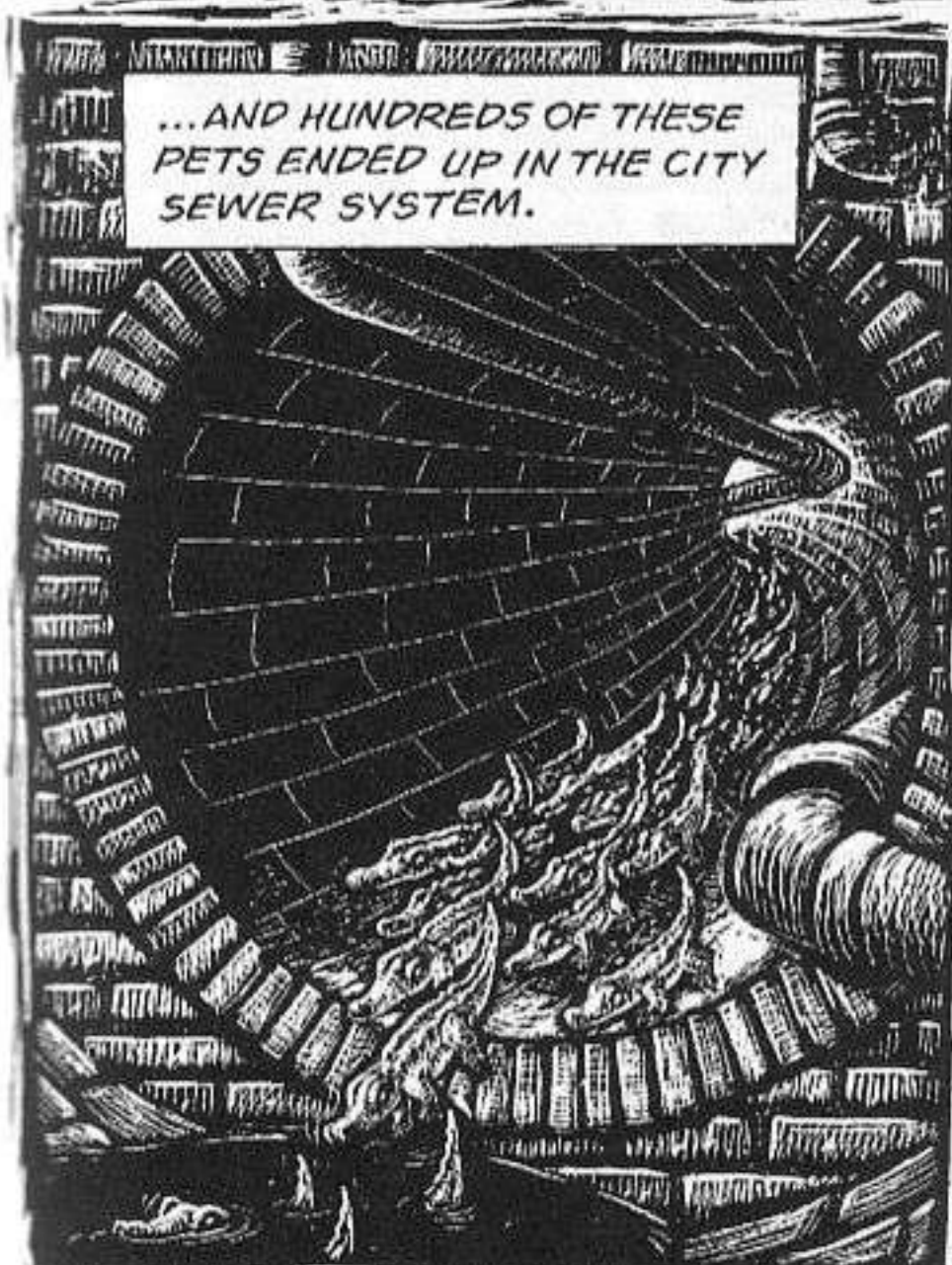
AND THAT, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN OF THE JURY, WAS NOT THE LAST CAT TO BE SENT UP THE RIVER ON CRUMMY CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE!

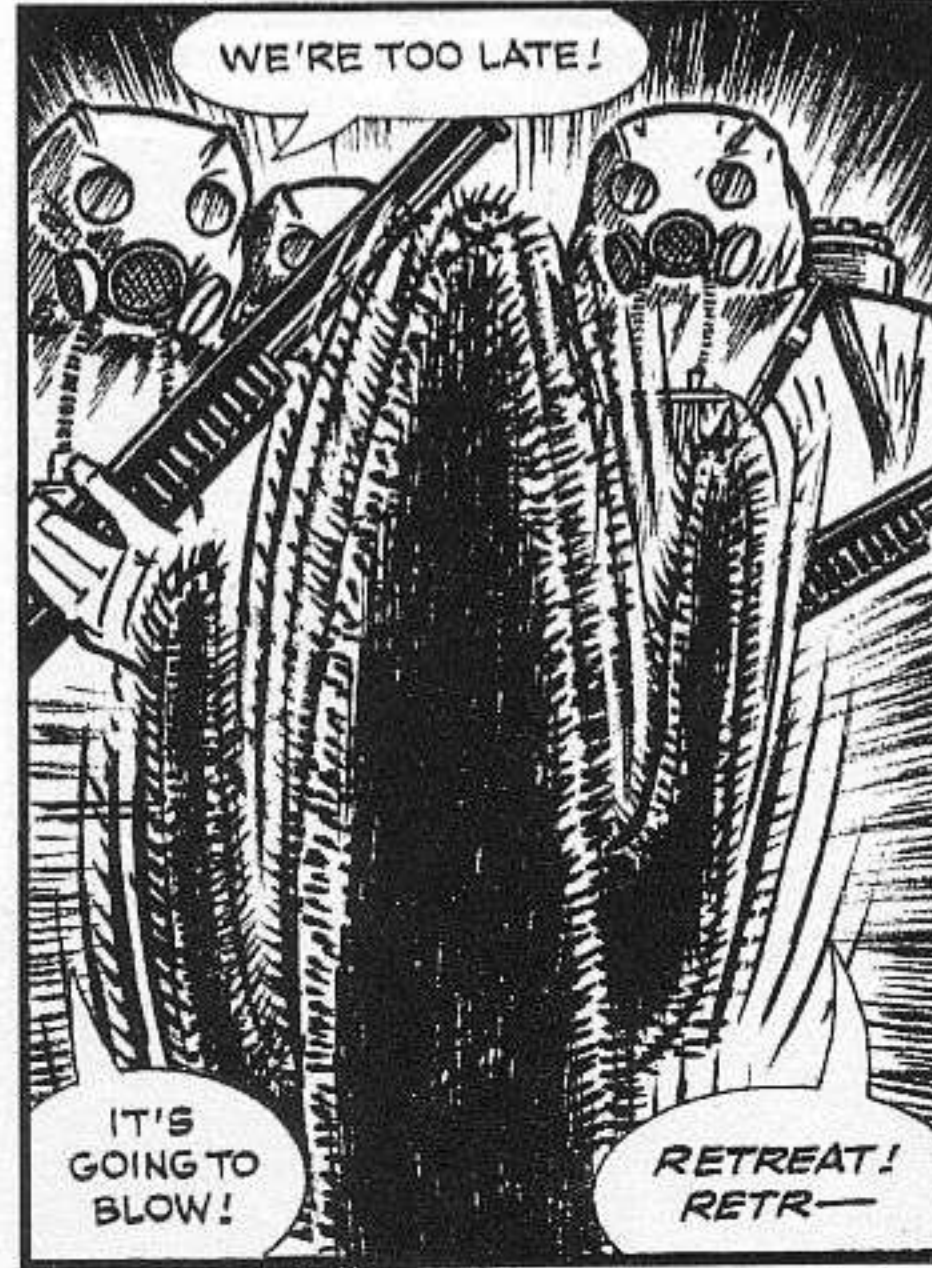
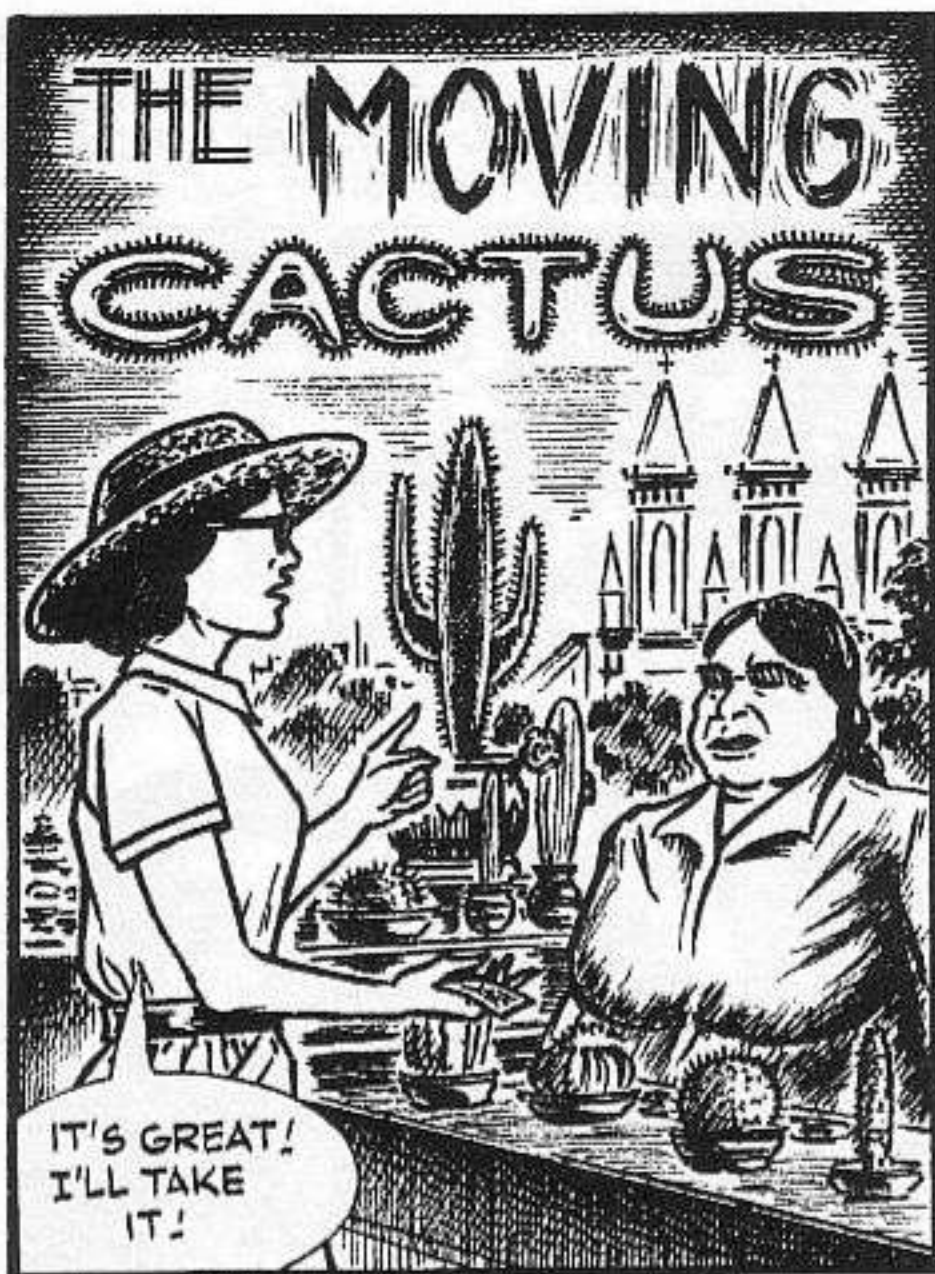
I REST MY CASE!





Alligators in the Sewer





CHAPTER THREE

CAMPFIRE CLASSICS

HORROR LEGENDS

These are the horror legends traditionally told at slumber parties and summer camps. In a sense, all urban legends are horror stories, though in some the shock is mitigated by humor. ("Ha Ha! They ate their grandmother's ashes!") You be the judge: Is this sort of thing funny-funny, funny-peculiar, or just plain unfunny-horrible? Much of the horror in these legends comes from what the characters in the story do *not* know — The killer is upstairs! The hand was licked by a mad murderer! The smell comes from a decaying body hidden in the hotel room! The nervous *humor*, such as it is, comes mainly from our sense of relief that *we're* not involved in that particular adventure, being (of course) superior in wisdom and insight to the stories' victims.

THE BABYSITTER AND THE MAN UPSTAIRS

SO... THERE WAS THIS GIRL IN MONTREAL BABYSITTING FOR THREE CHILDREN IN A REALLY BIG OLD HOUSE, EH?

THE CHILDREN WERE ALL IN BED AND SHE WAS WATCHING TV WHEN SUDDENLY THE PHONE RANG...

HELLO?

IS ANYBODY THERE?

"THE BABYSITTER HUNG UP THE PHONE AND WENT BACK TO HER MOVIE. ABOUT FIFTEEN MINUTES LATER..."

HAAAA
HAAA!

"WORRIED, SHE HUNG UP AND DIALED THE OPERATOR..."

IF HE CALLS AGAIN, KEEP HIM ON THE LINE AND I'LL TRACE THE CALL.

I-I'LL DO MY BEST.

"AGAIN, ABOUT FIFTEEN MINUTES LATER THE GUY CALLED BACK AND LAUGHED HYSTERICALLY AT HER..."

WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS?

WHY WON'T YOU STOP LAUGHING??

"HE HUNG UP AND ABOUT FIVE SECONDS LATER THE OPERATOR CALLED..."

HAAAAHAHAHA!!

THE BABYSITTER RAN OUT ONTO THE STREET BUT THE MAN DIDN'T FOLLOW. SHE CALLED THE POLICE AND THEY CAME AND CAUGHT THE MAN, AND DISCOVERED THAT HE HAD MURDERED ALL THE CHILDREN.

PRETTY GRUESOME, EH?

GET OUT OF THE HOUSE!
THE CALLS ARE COMING FROM THE UPSTAIRS EXTENSION!!



TWO BABY SITTERS AND A MAN UPSTAIRS!!!

THANKS A MILLION FOR COMING WITH ME TONIGHT, SHARON. I COULDN'T HAVE FACED THIS HAUNTED HOUSE WITHOUT YOU!

JUST REMEMBER YOU PROMISED ME HALF OF THE BABY-SITTING FEE, LINDA!

DO YOU THINK THIS MAUSOLEUM IS WIRED FOR CABLE?



SO, ARE THE LITTLE VAMPIRES ALL TUCKED INTO THEIR COFFINS?

THE CHILDREN ARE IN BED, IF THAT'S WHAT YOU MEAN.

HOW COME THE PHONE'S OFF THE HOOK?

WHILE YOU WERE UPSTAIRS WE GOT TWO OBSCENE CALLS!

THE GUY'S STILL ON THE LINE IF YOU'RE INTERESTED.



HEAVY BREATHING, RIGHT? I THINK IT'S JOEY FROM SCHOOL.

NO! IT'S A MAN, AND HE SAYS WE SHOULD GO UPSTAIRS AND CHECK ON THE KIDS... YOU GO AND DO THAT WHILE I CALL THE OPERATOR!



OH, ALL RIGHT. THERE'S A COMMERCIAL ON ANYWAY.

YES, OPERATOR! IF HE CALLS AGAIN, WE'LL TRY TO KEEP HIM ON THE LINE LONG ENOUGH FOR YOU TO TRACE THE CALL!



SHARON?

WHERE IS SHE? SHE'S BEEN UP THERE ALMOST FIFTEEN MINUTES. MAYBE I SHOULD GO UP AND CHECK--

DING-A-LING!



HELLO? WHO IS THIS? STOP BREATHING LIKE THAT!

NO, I ALREADY DID CHECK ON THE CHILDREN! YES, I DID!



OPERATOR? WERE YOU ABLE TO TRACE THAT CALL?

IMPOSSIBLE..IT CAN'T HAVE COME FROM THE UPSTAIRS EXTENSION! SHARON'S UP THERE!

I HEAR HER COMING DOWN NOW!

THUMP
THUMP
THUMP



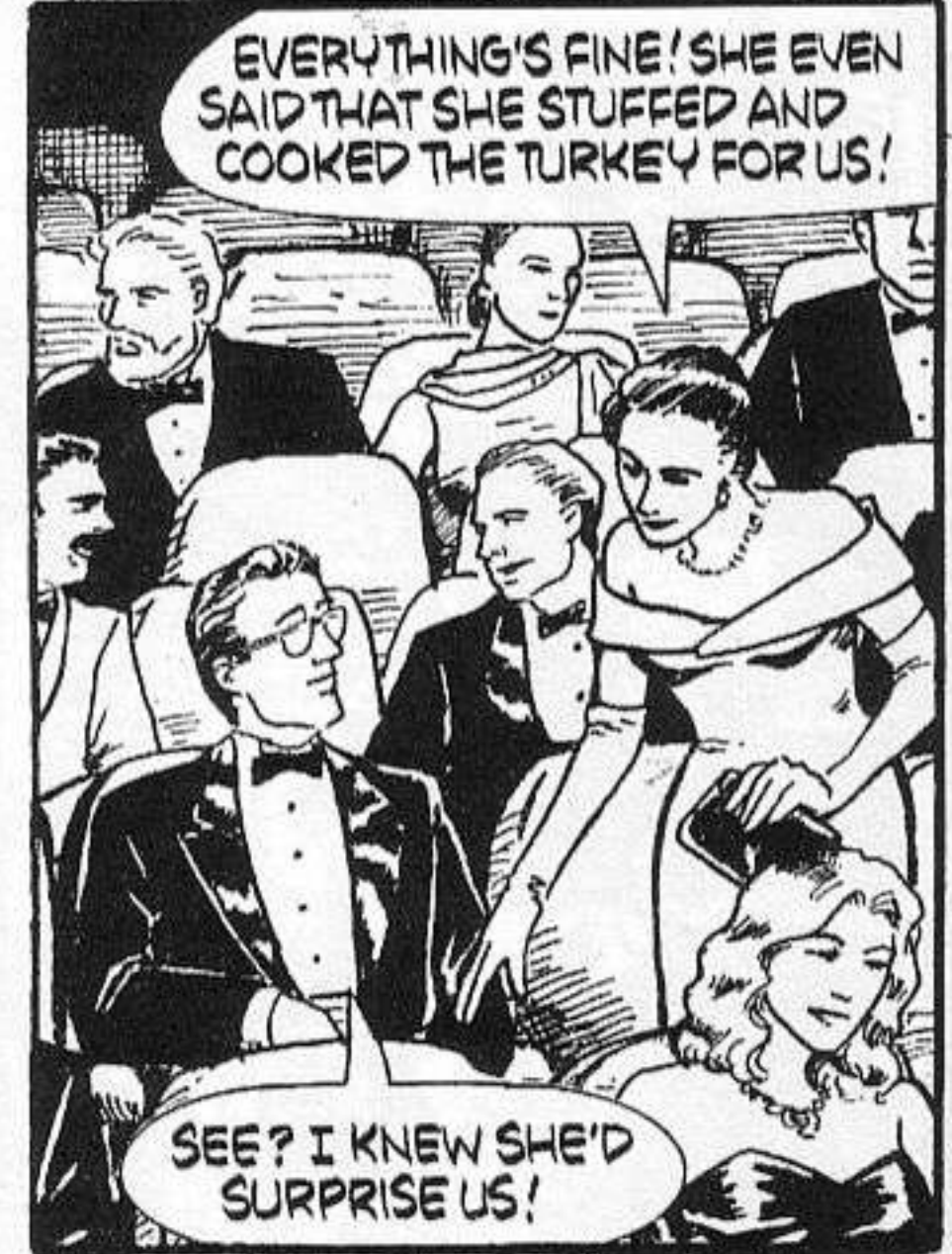
OH, MY GOD!!!

THE CHILDREN ARE DEAD!

RUN!

THUMP!

THUMP!



BABY GETS THE CHAIR



The Licked Hand



THE BOYFRIEND'S DEATH

THIS IS A TRUE STORY I HEARD FIRSTHAND!

IT HAPPENED JUST A FEW YEARS AGO OUT ON THE ROAD THAT TURNS OFF HIGHWAY 59 BY THE HOLIDAY INN.



"THIS COUPLE WERE PARKED UNDER A TREE OUT ON THIS ROAD.

"WELL, IT GOT TO BE TIME FOR THE GIRL TO BE BACK AT THE DORM, SO SHE TOLD HER BOYFRIEND THAT THEY SHOULD START BACK.

"BUT THE CAR WOULDN'T START, SO HE TOLD HER TO LOCK HERSELF IN AND HE WOULD GO DOWN TO THE HOLIDAY INN AND CALL FOR HELP.

"WELL, HE DIDN'T COME BACK AND HE DIDN'T COME BACK, AND PRETTY SOON SHE STARTED HEARING A SCRATCHING NOISE ON THE ROOF OF THE CAR.

"SHE GOT SCARED AND SCARED, BUT HE DIDN'T COME BACK.

"THE COPS FOUND HER THERE THE NEXT MORNING."

WHATEVER YOU DO, DON'T TURN AROUND!

"BUT THE GIRL LOOKED BACK-- AND SAW HER BOYFRIEND HANGING FROM THE TREE.

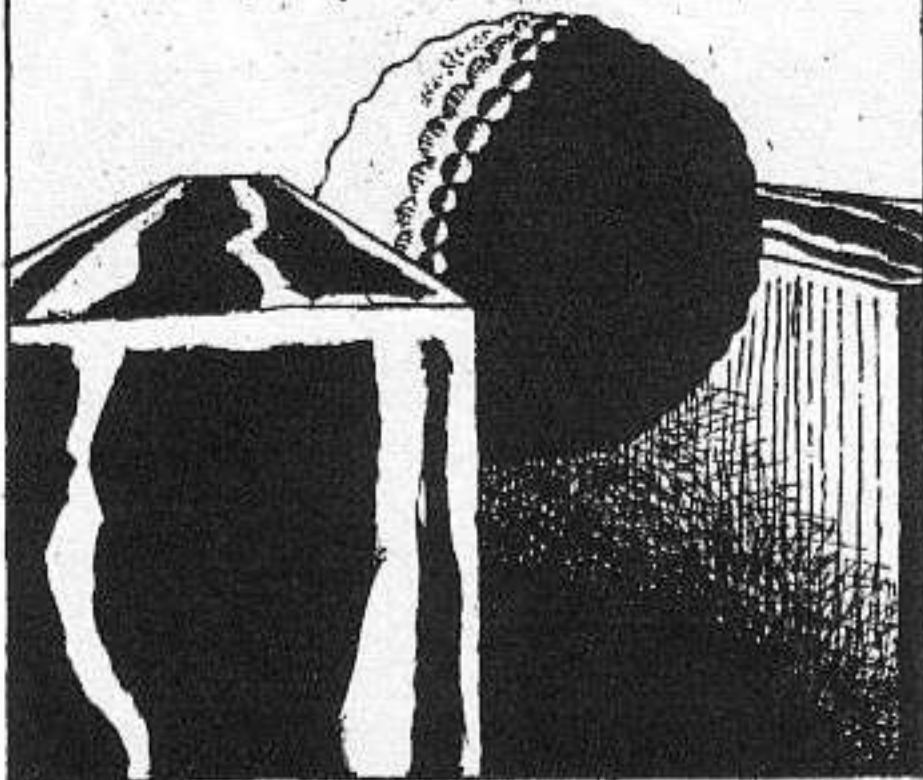
HER HAIR TURNED WHITE FROM THE SHOCK, AND SHE WENT INSANE.

THAT'S WHY THE ROAD IS CALLED "HANGMAN'S ROAD."

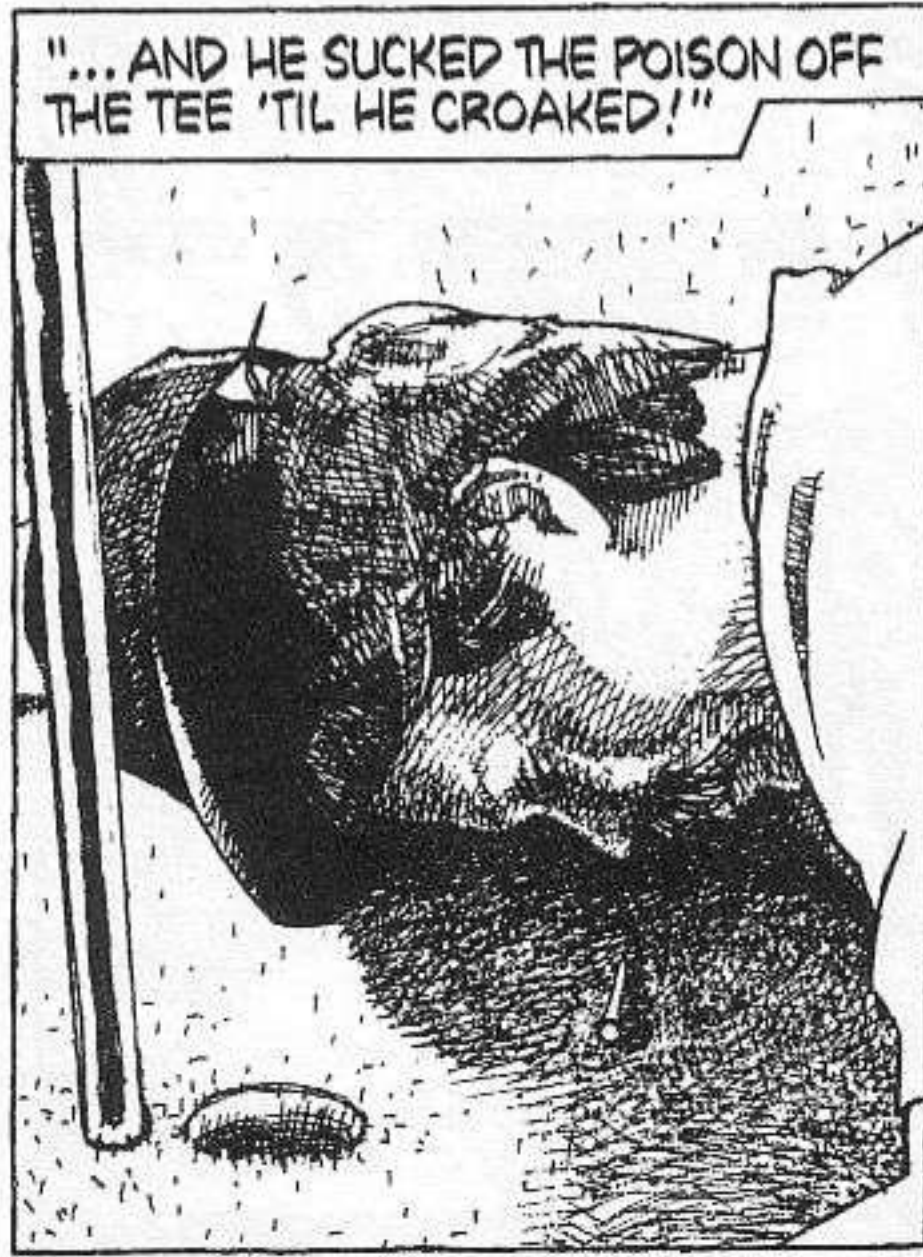
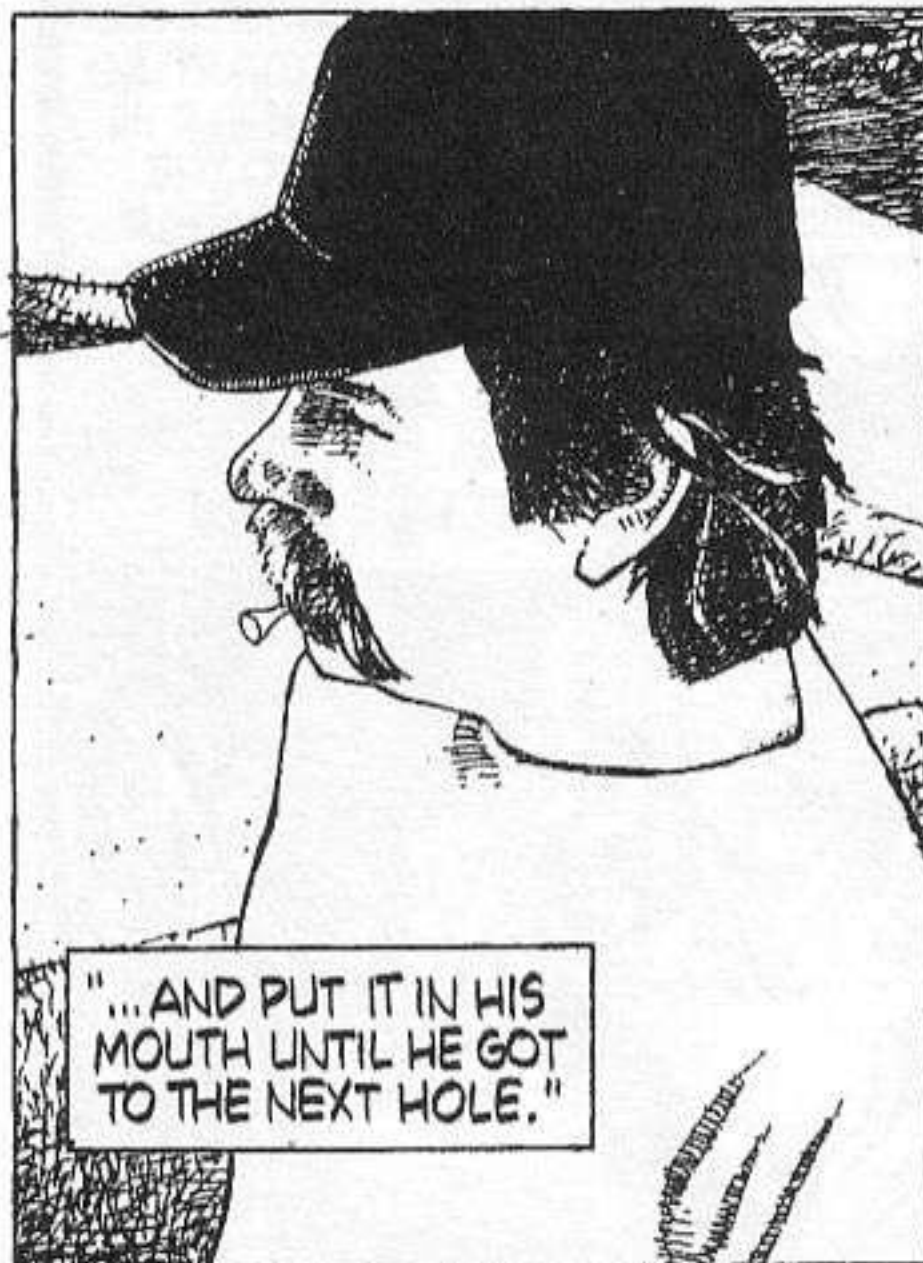
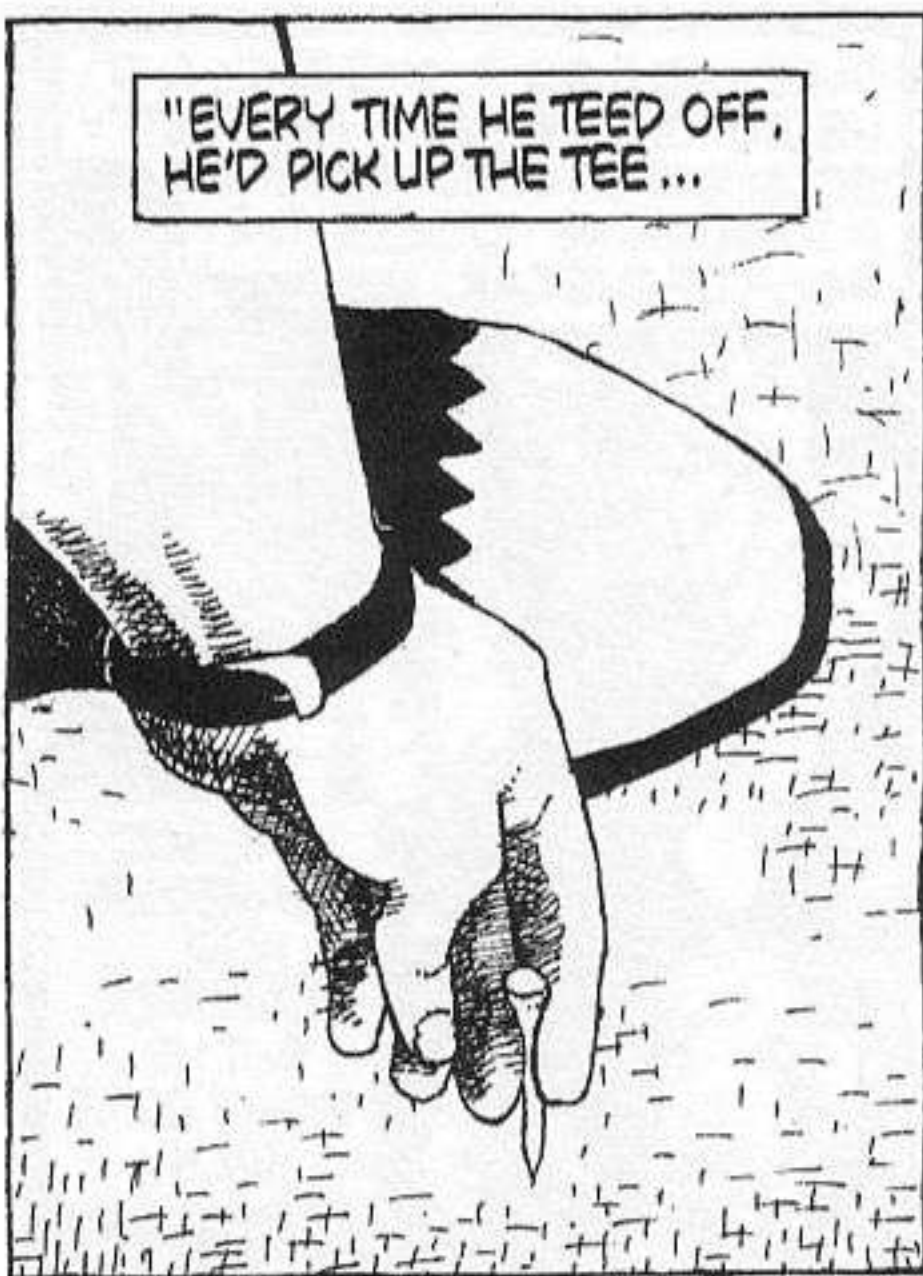
AND IF YOU DON'T BELIEVE ME, JUST ASK MY BROTHER'S BOSS! THAT GIRL USED TO BE HIS NEXT-DOOR NEIGHBOR!

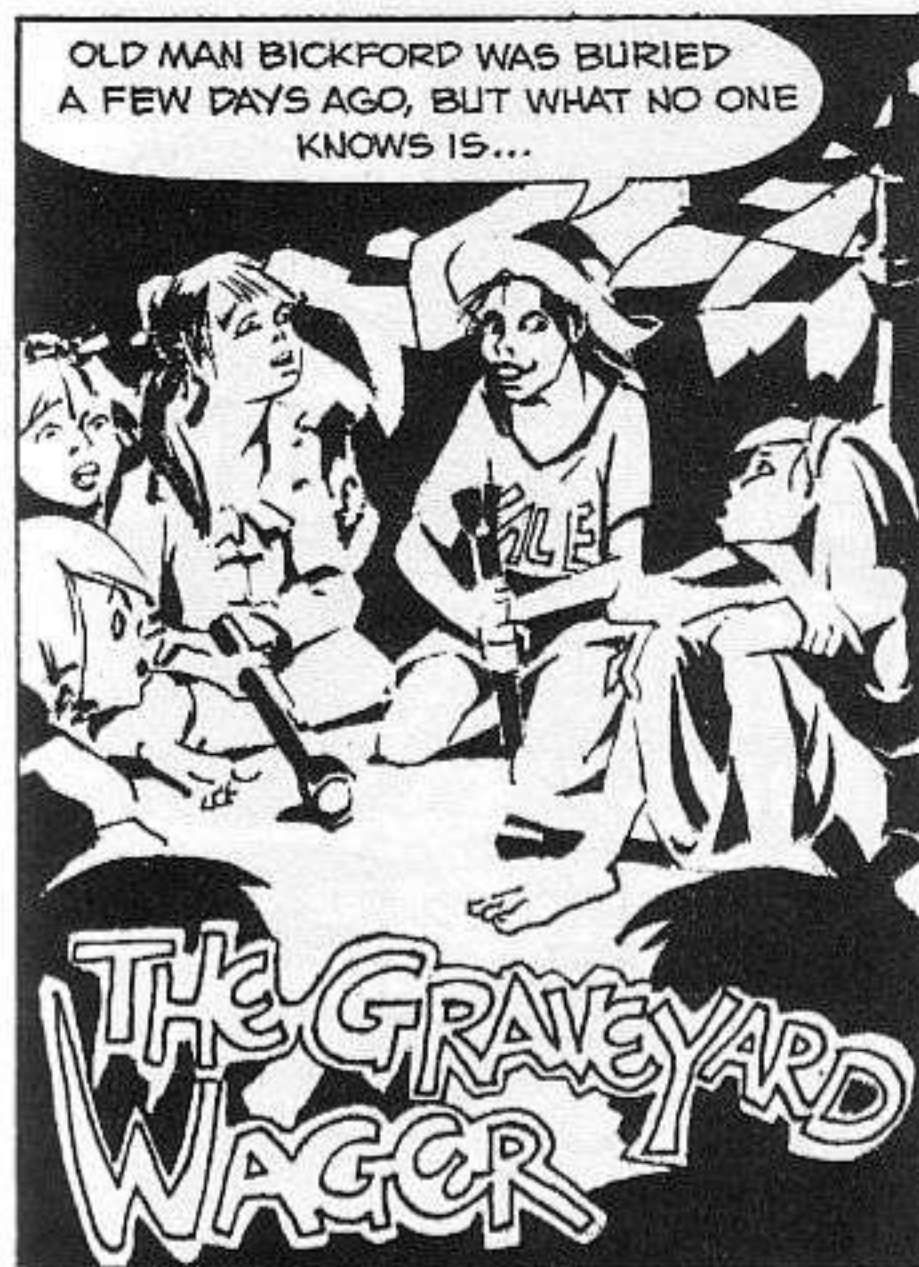
"HIS FEET WERE SCRAPING AGAINST THE ROOF OF THE CAR."

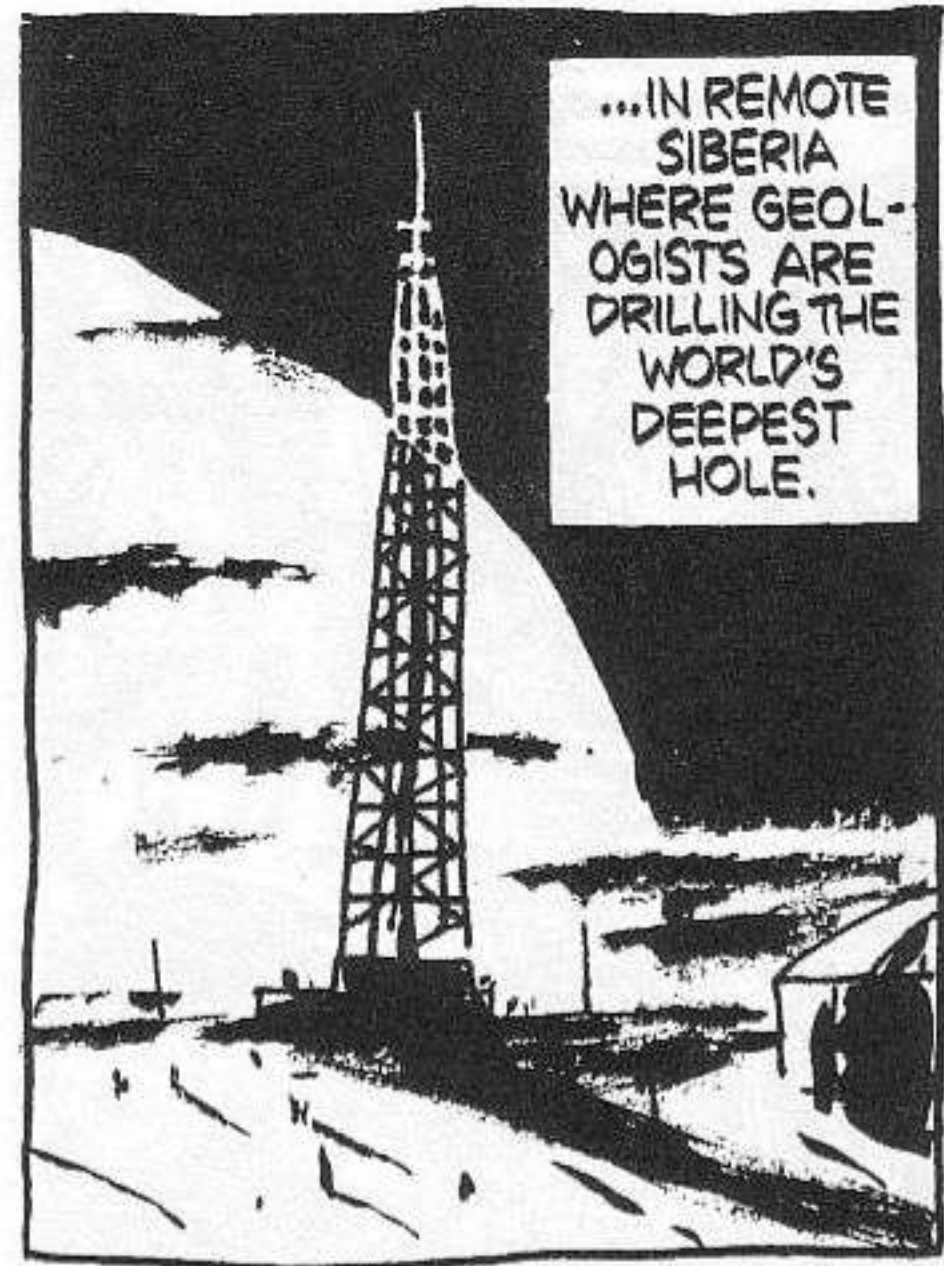
The Fatal Tee

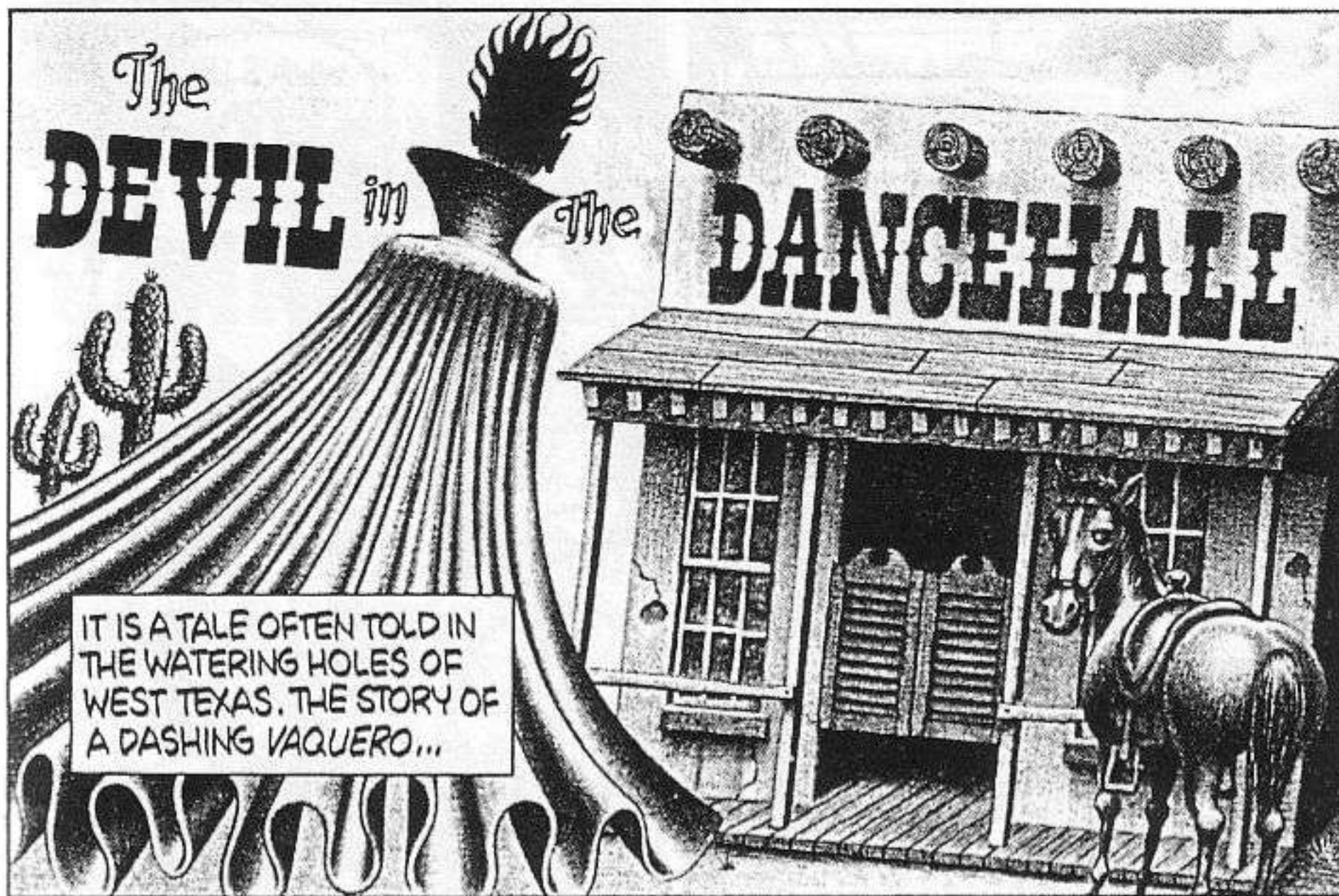


"DIDN'T YA HEAR ABOUT THE GUY WHO DROPPED DEAD ON THE EIGHTEENTH HOLE?"



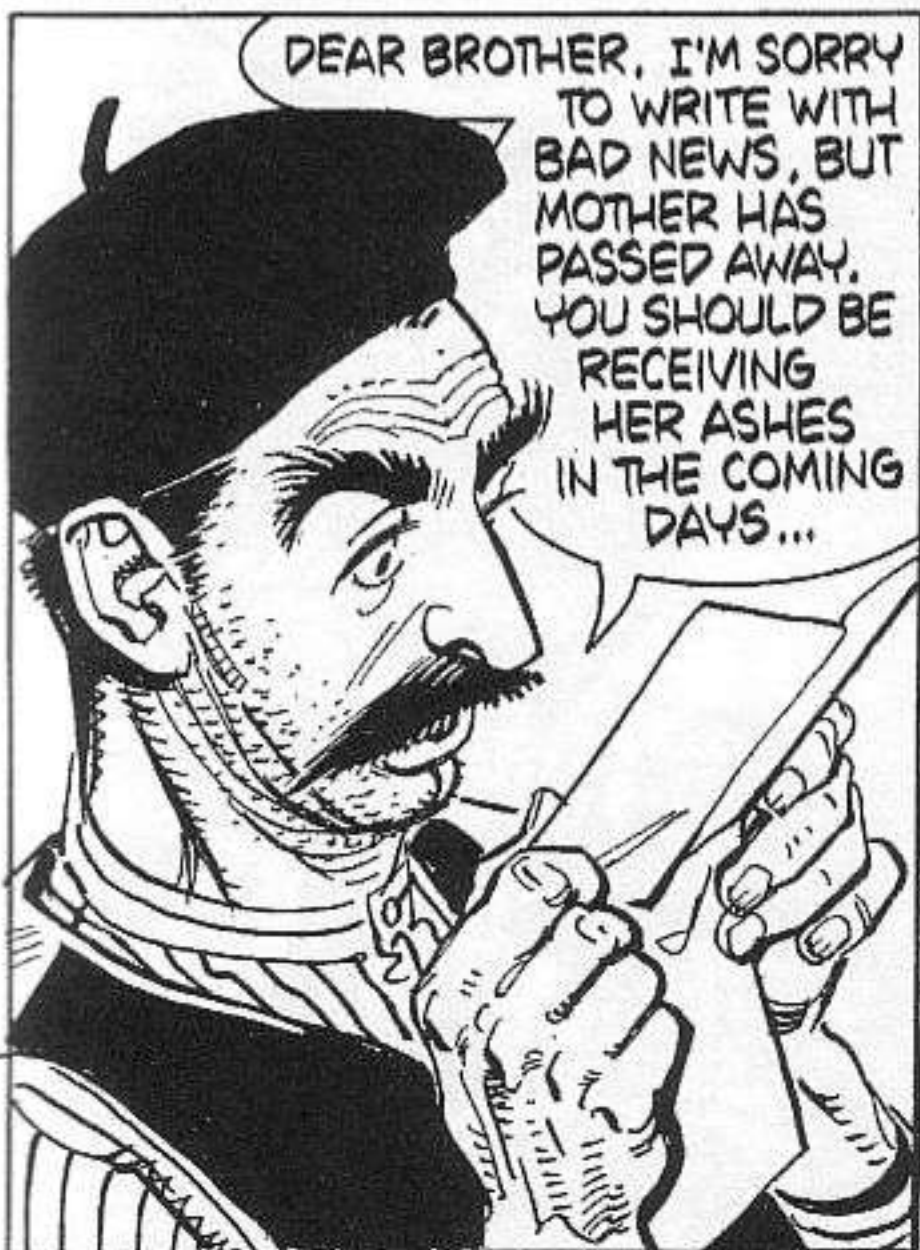


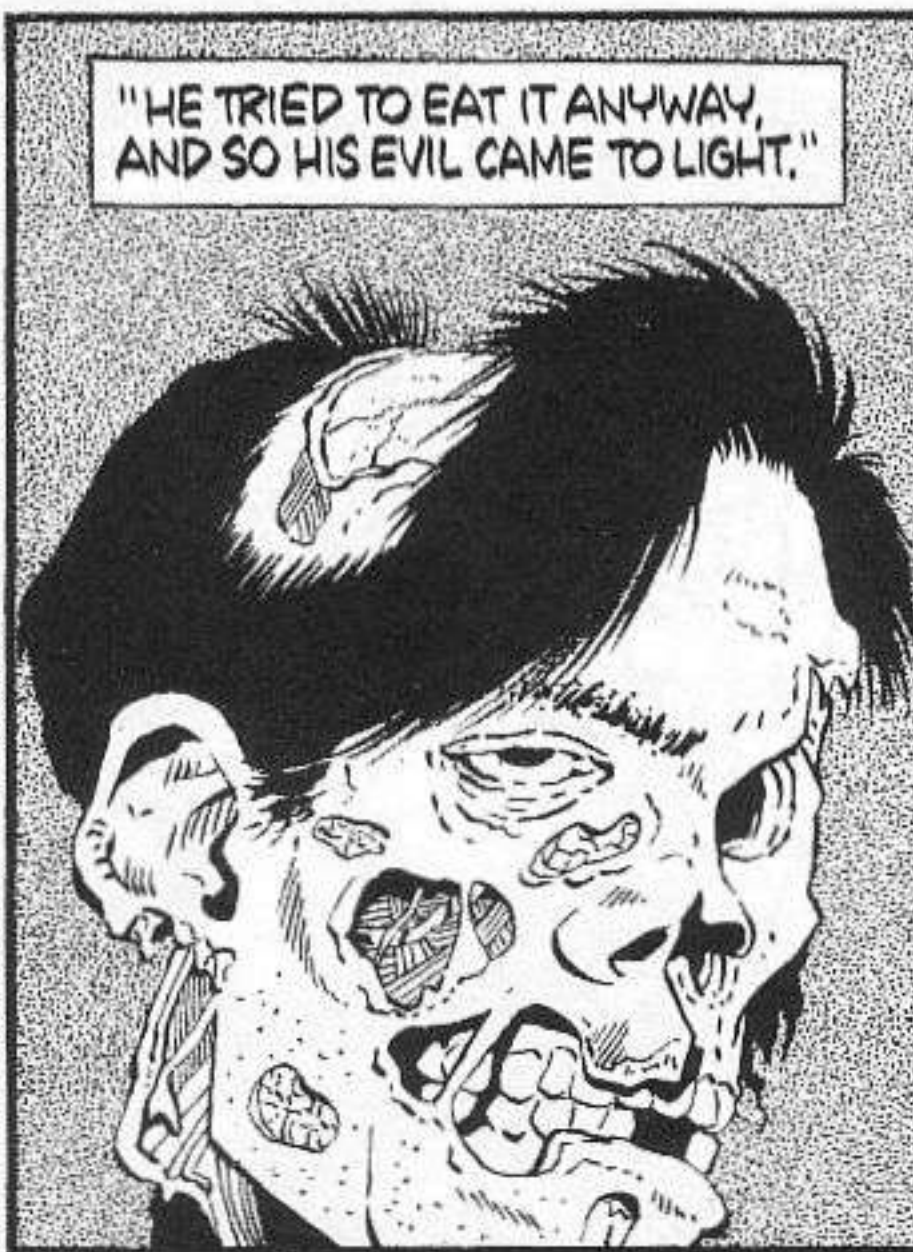
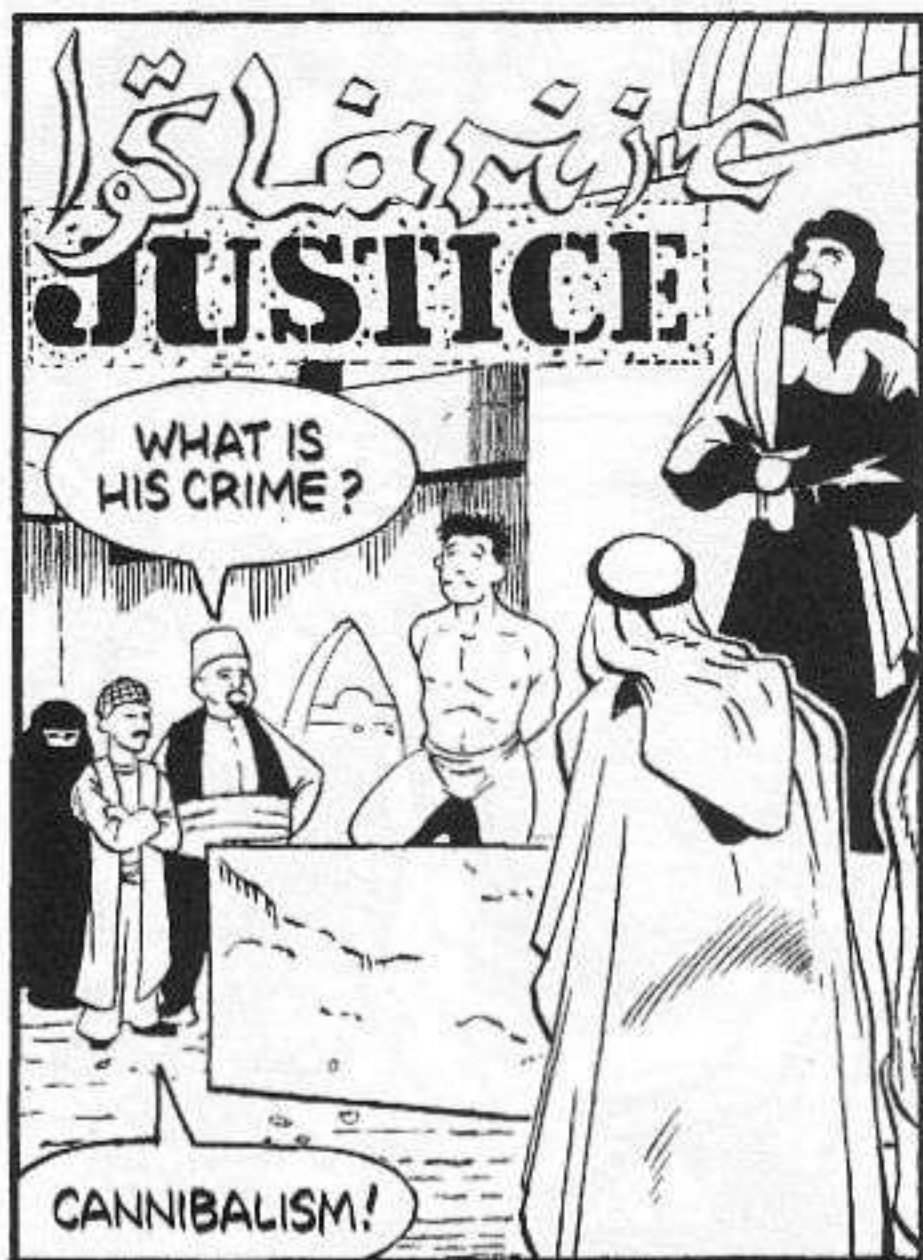


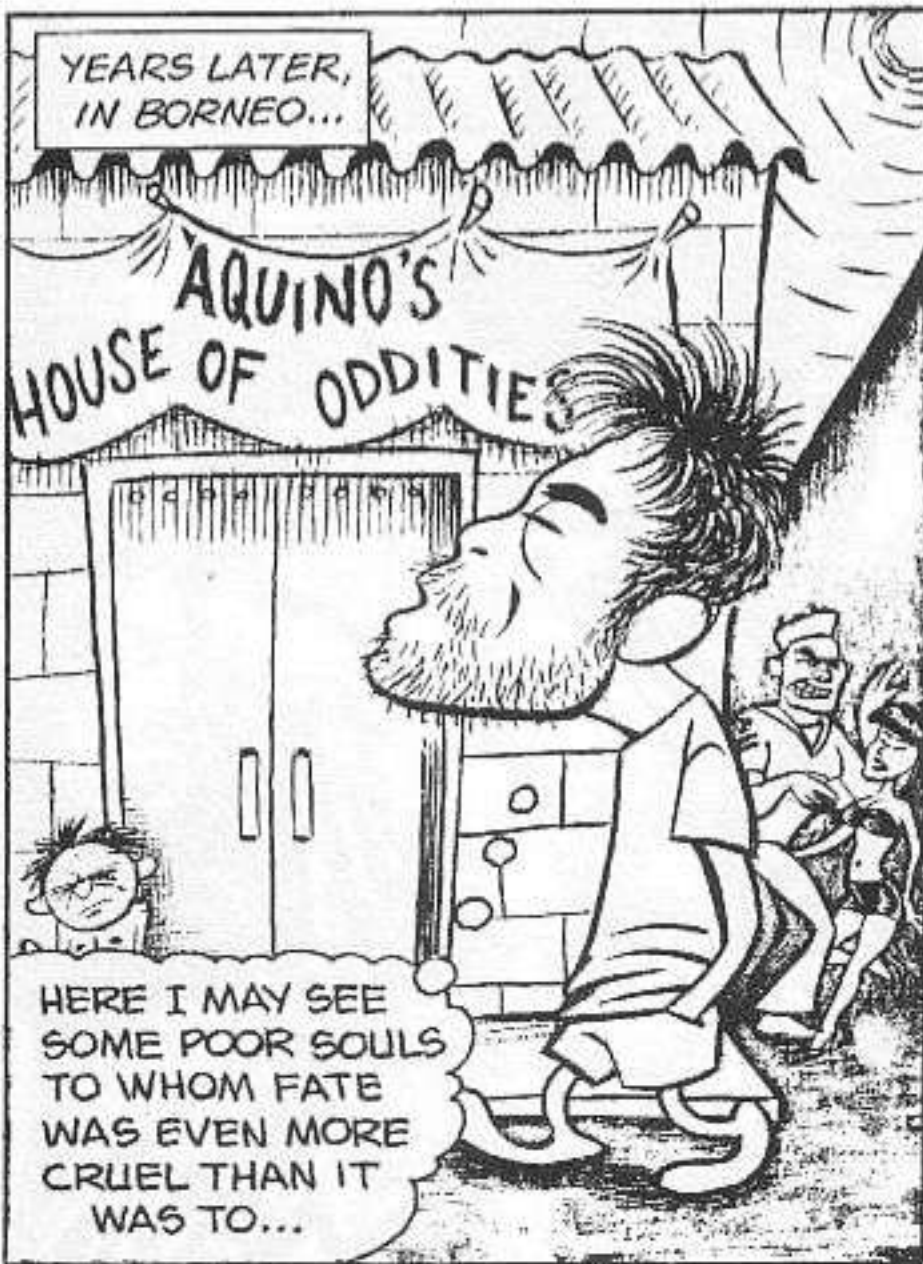
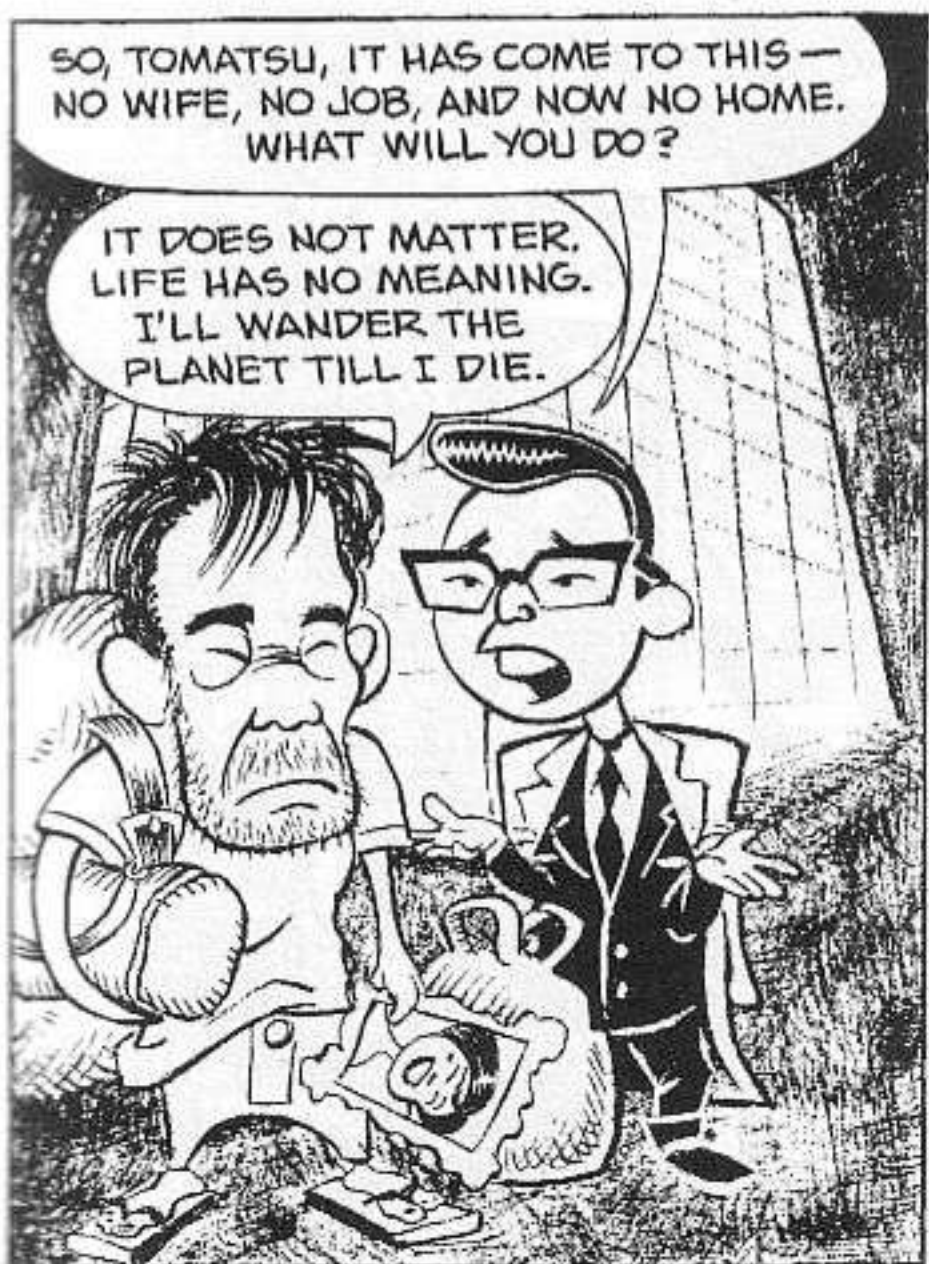
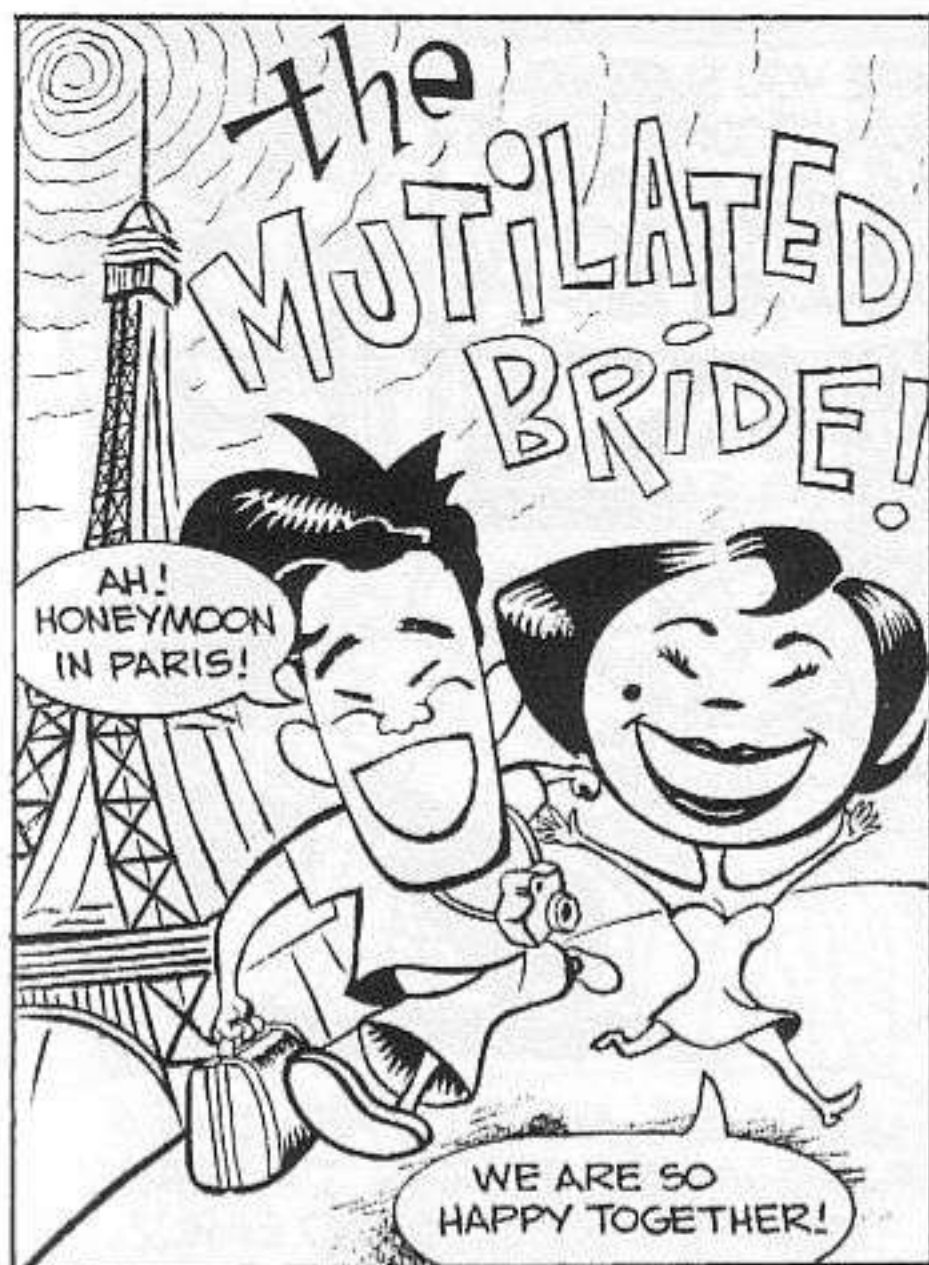




the ACCIDENTAL CANNIBALS









THE OTHER ROOMMATE'S DEATH

HAVE A MERRY CHRISTMAS, YOU TWO! WHEN DO YOUR TRAINS LEAVE?

TOMORROW MORNING!

ISN'T IT GREAT? WE'VE GOT THE WHOLE DORM TO OURSELVES 'TIL THEN!

ARE YOU SURE YOU WON'T COME OUT WITH US TONIGHT, DARLENE? CHUCK WON'T MIND.

NO, I'M REALLY TIRED--I'M GOING TO BED EARLY.

WELL, I'M MEETING CHUCK DOWNSTAIRS. I'LL TRY NOT TO WAKE YOU WHEN I COME IN.

DON'T STAY OUT TOO LATE. IT'S NOT SAFE AROUND HERE AFTER DARK!

OH, YOU JUST WATCH TOO MANY HORROR MOVIES!

LATER THAT NIGHT...

SQUEEK!

DARN SQUEAKY HINGES!

THUD!

OW!

HOW MANY TIMES HAVE I ASKED HER TO MOVE THAT DAMN TABLE?

I'M GETTING PRETTY GOOD AT UNDRESSING IN THE DARK!

AND FOR ONCE, DARLENE SLEPT THROUGH THE WHOLE THING--I HAVEN'T HEARD A PEEP OUT OF HER!

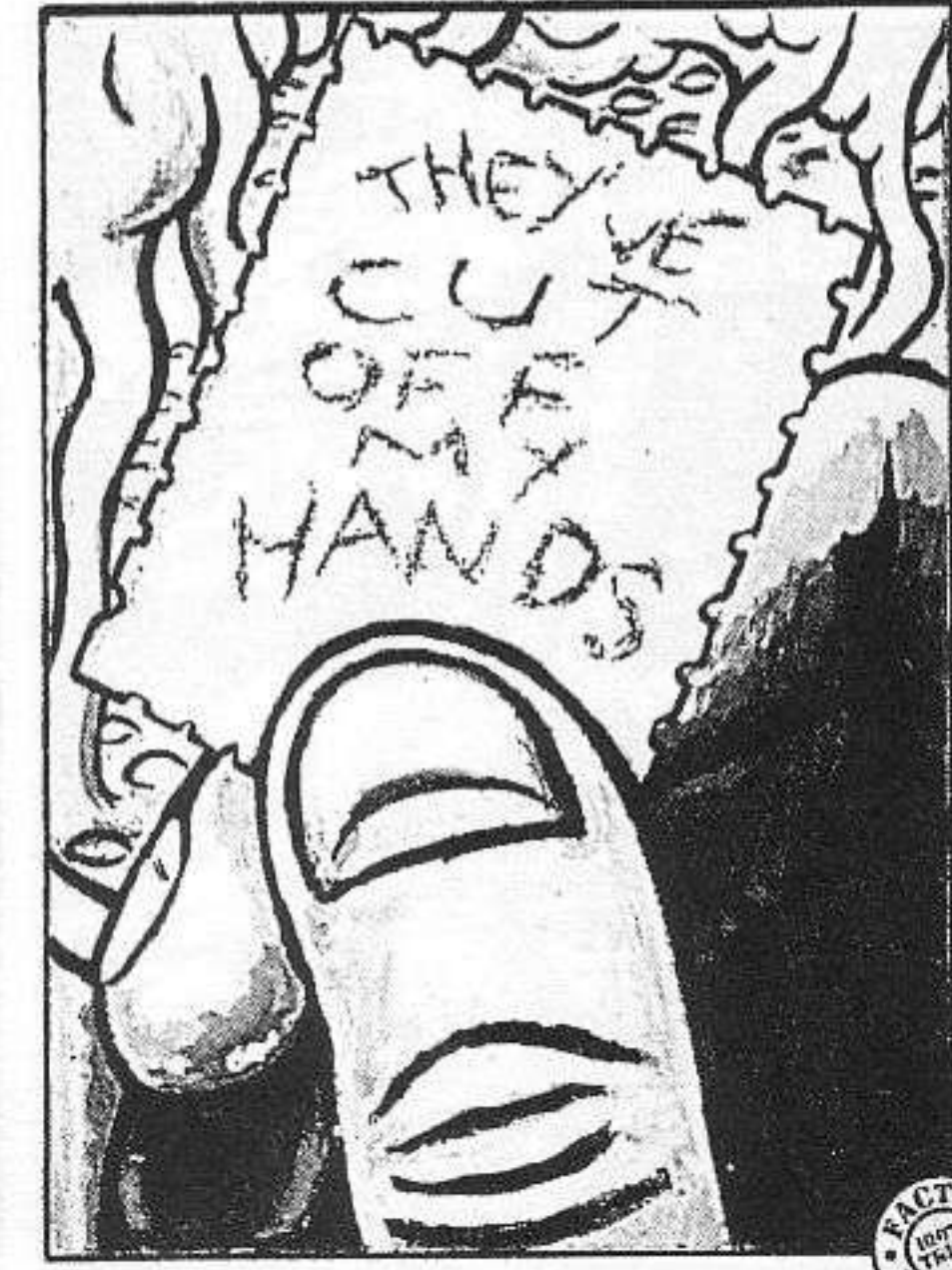
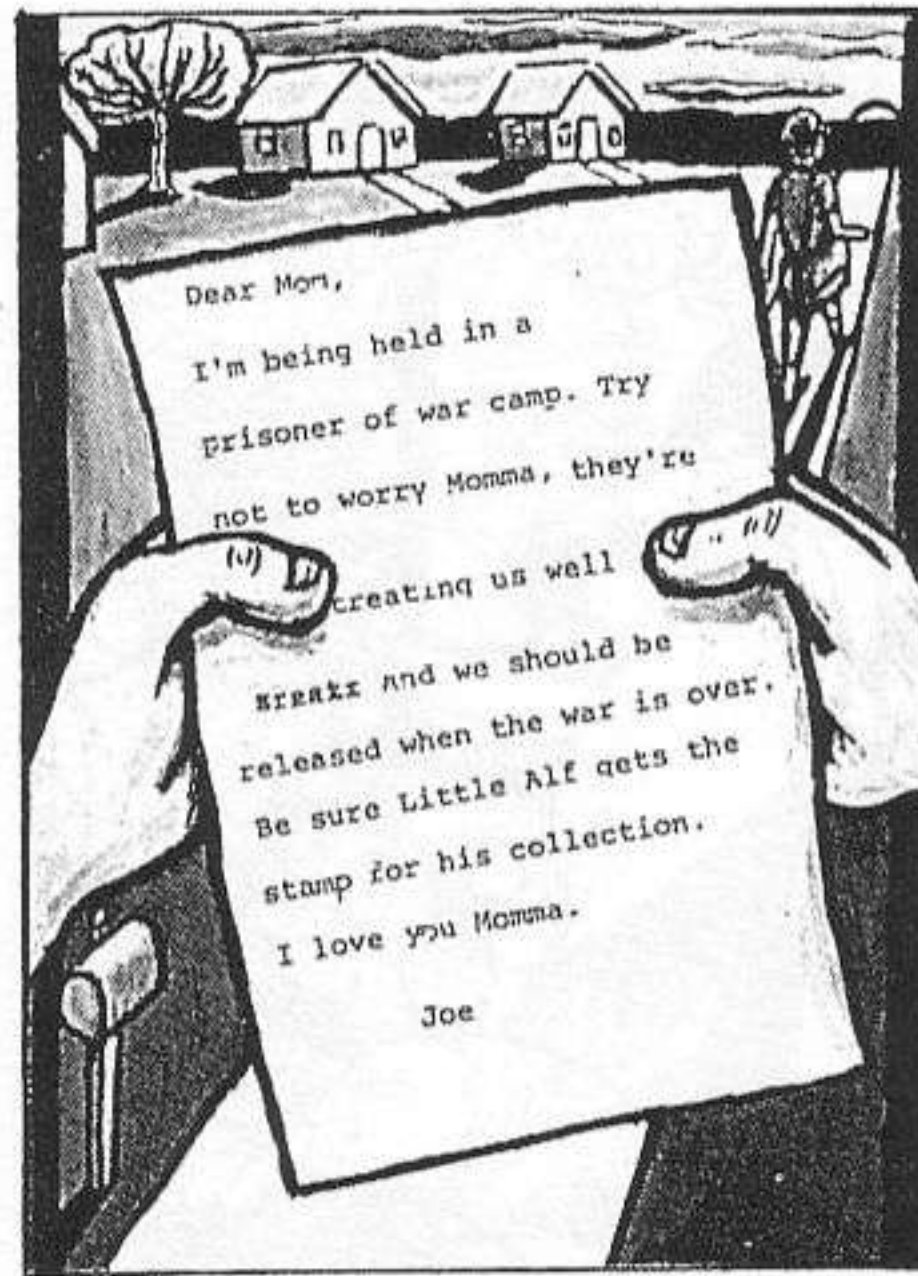
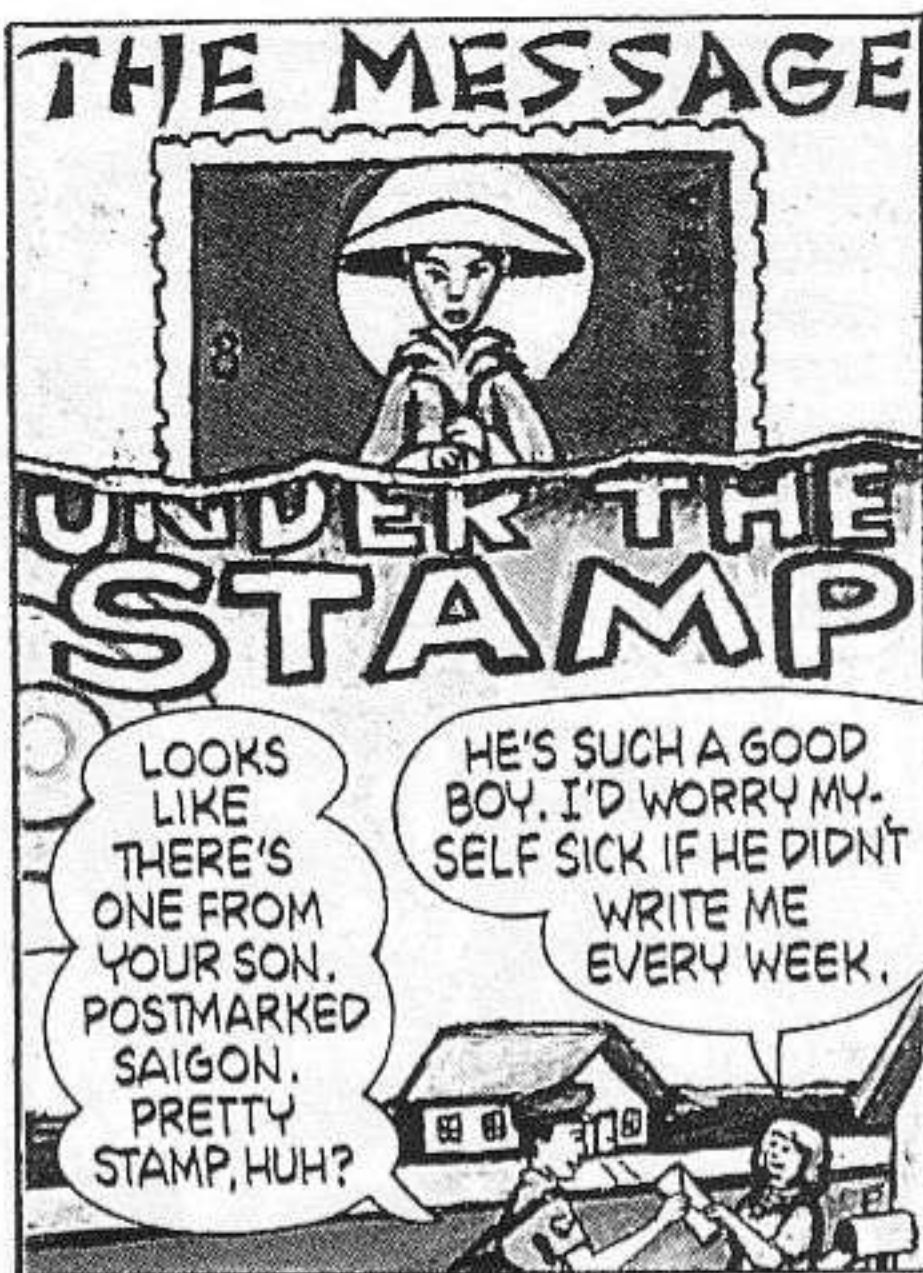
THE NEXT MORNING...

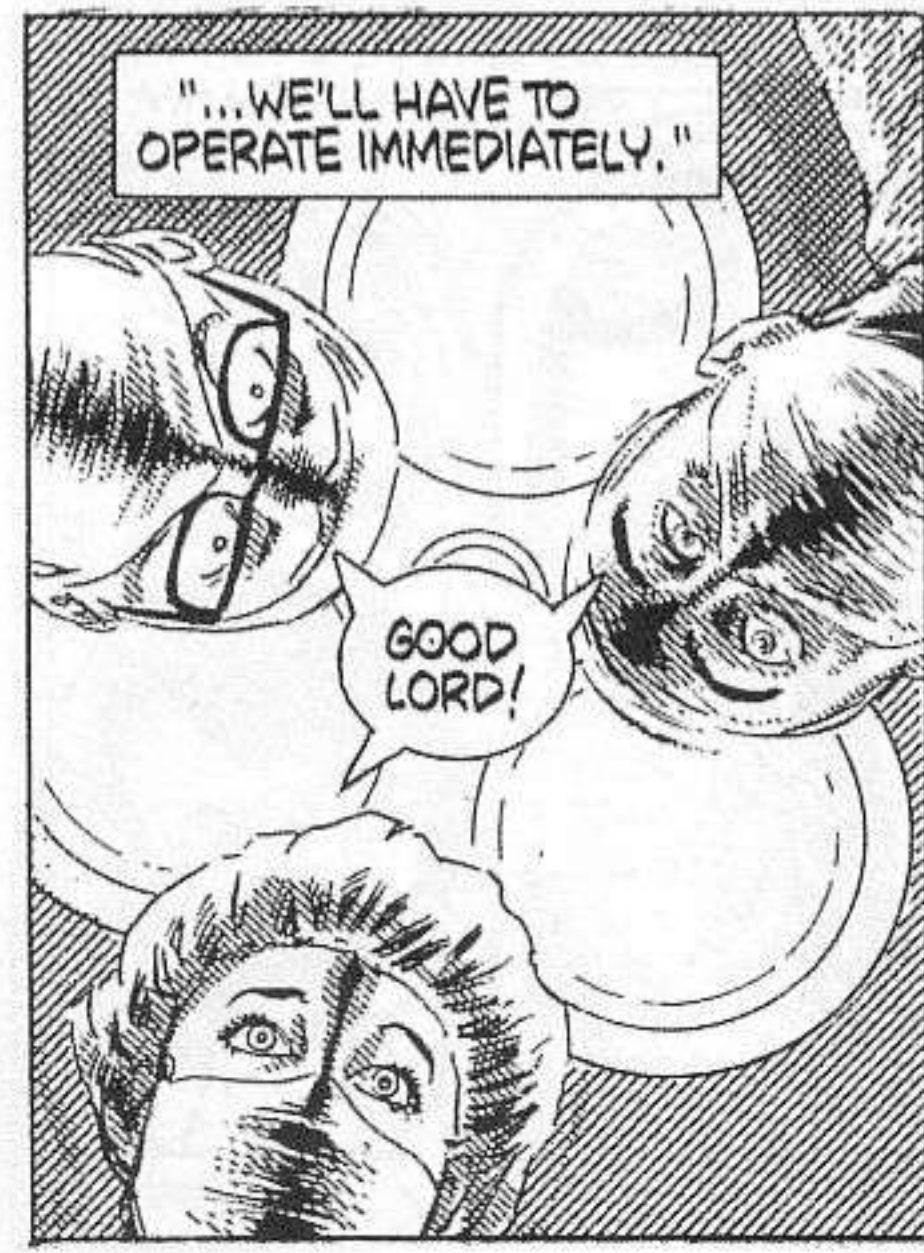
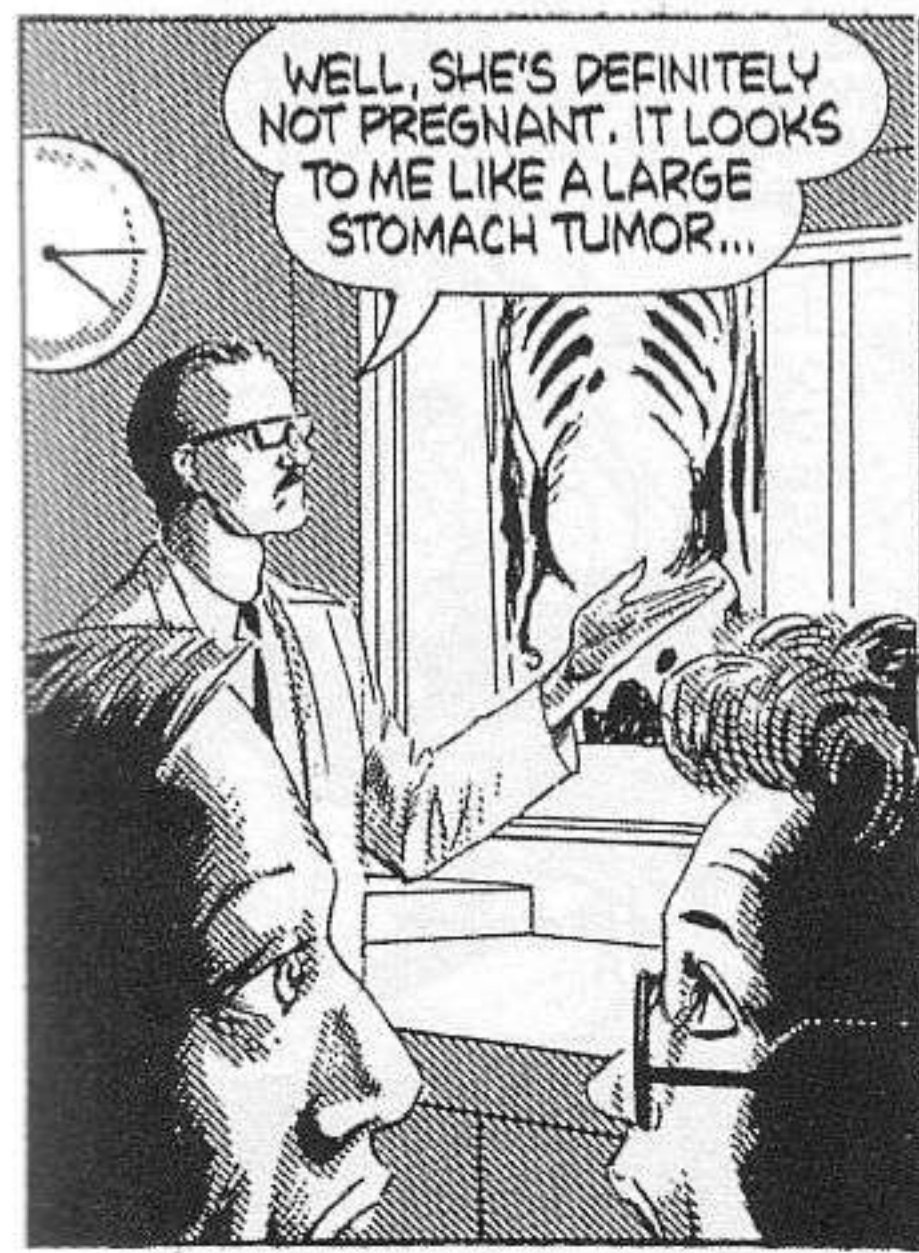
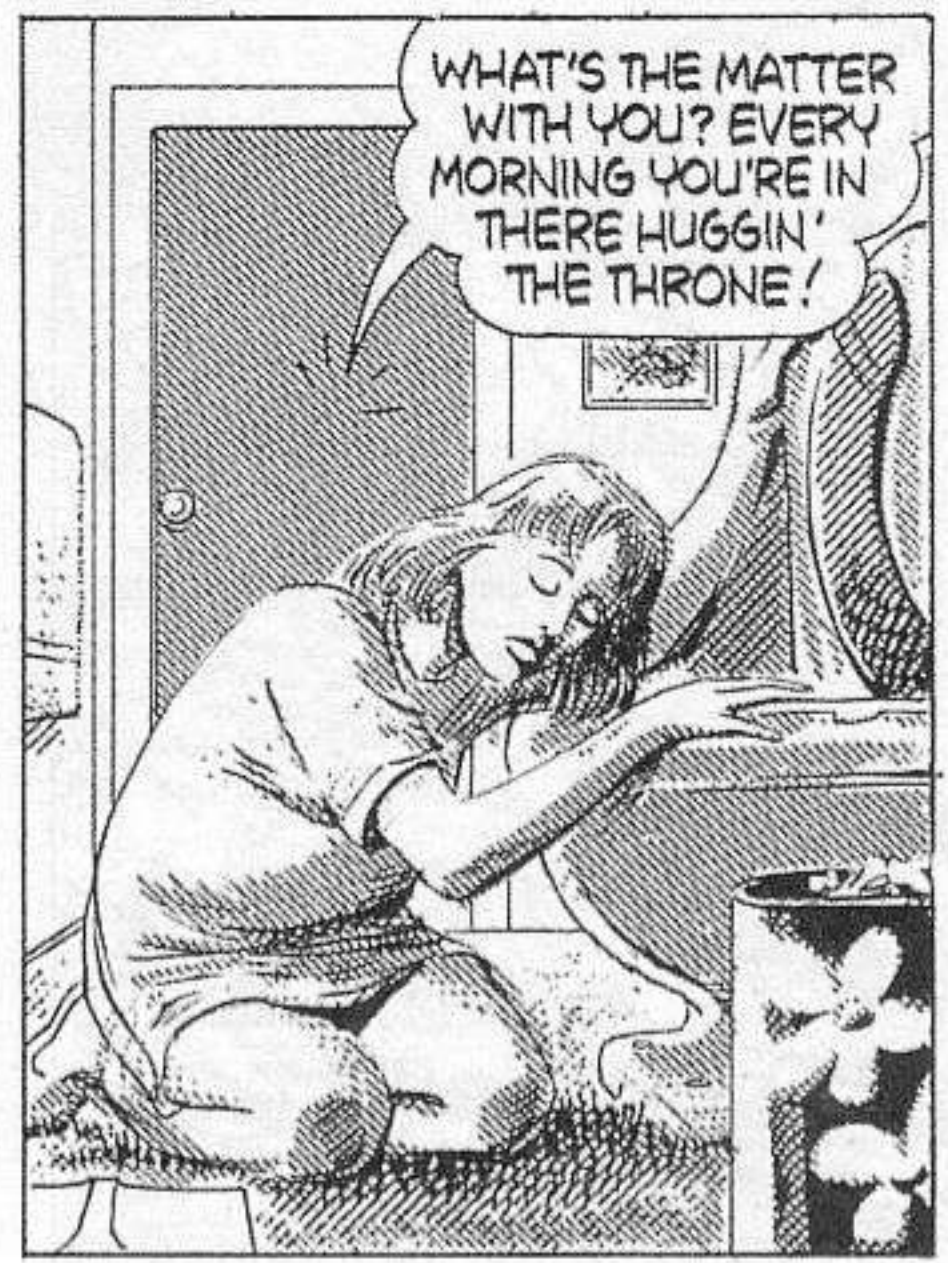
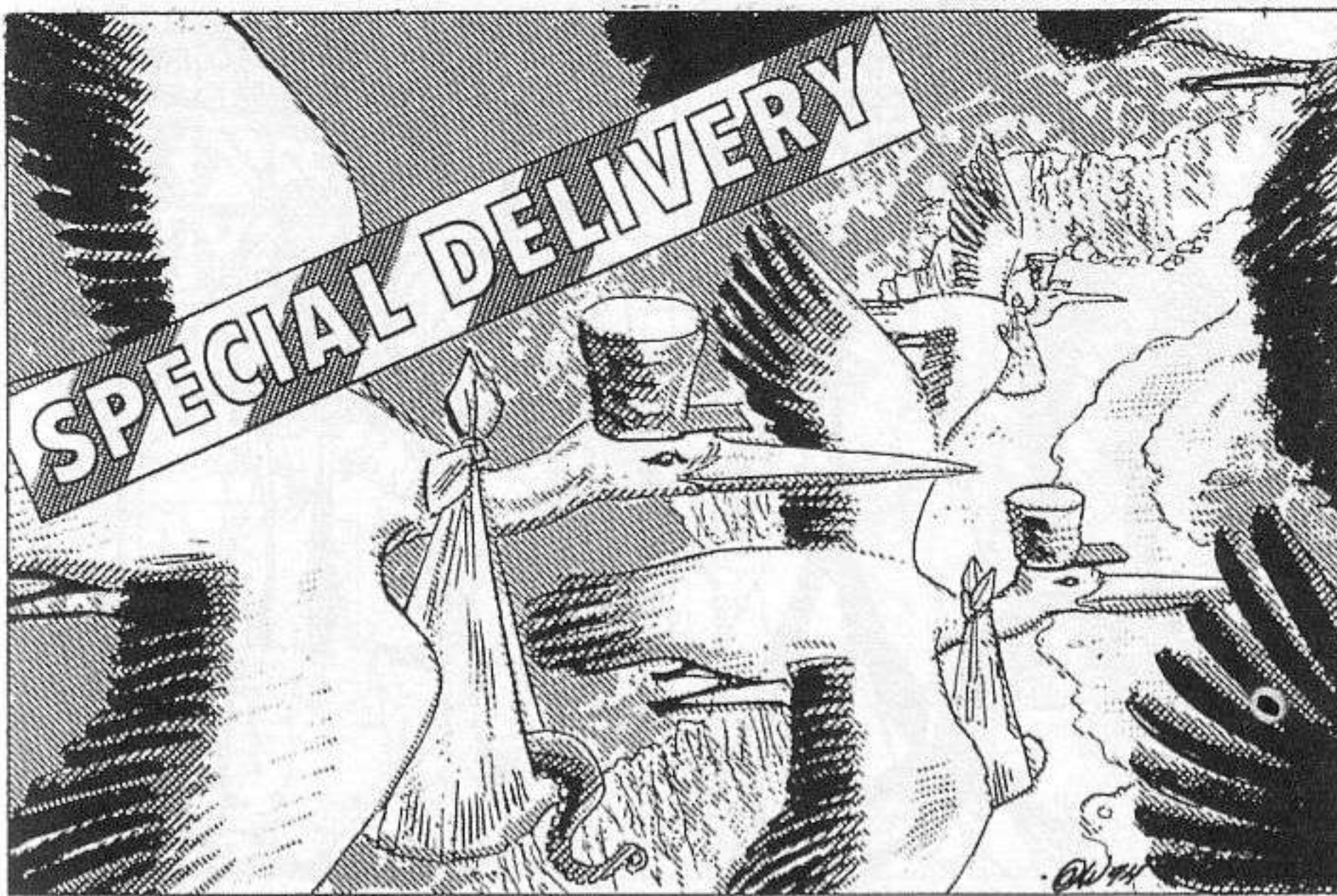
BZZZZ

TIME TO GET UP, DARLENE, OR WE'LL MISS OUR--

AREN'T YOU GLAD YOU DIDN'T TURN ON THE LIGHT?

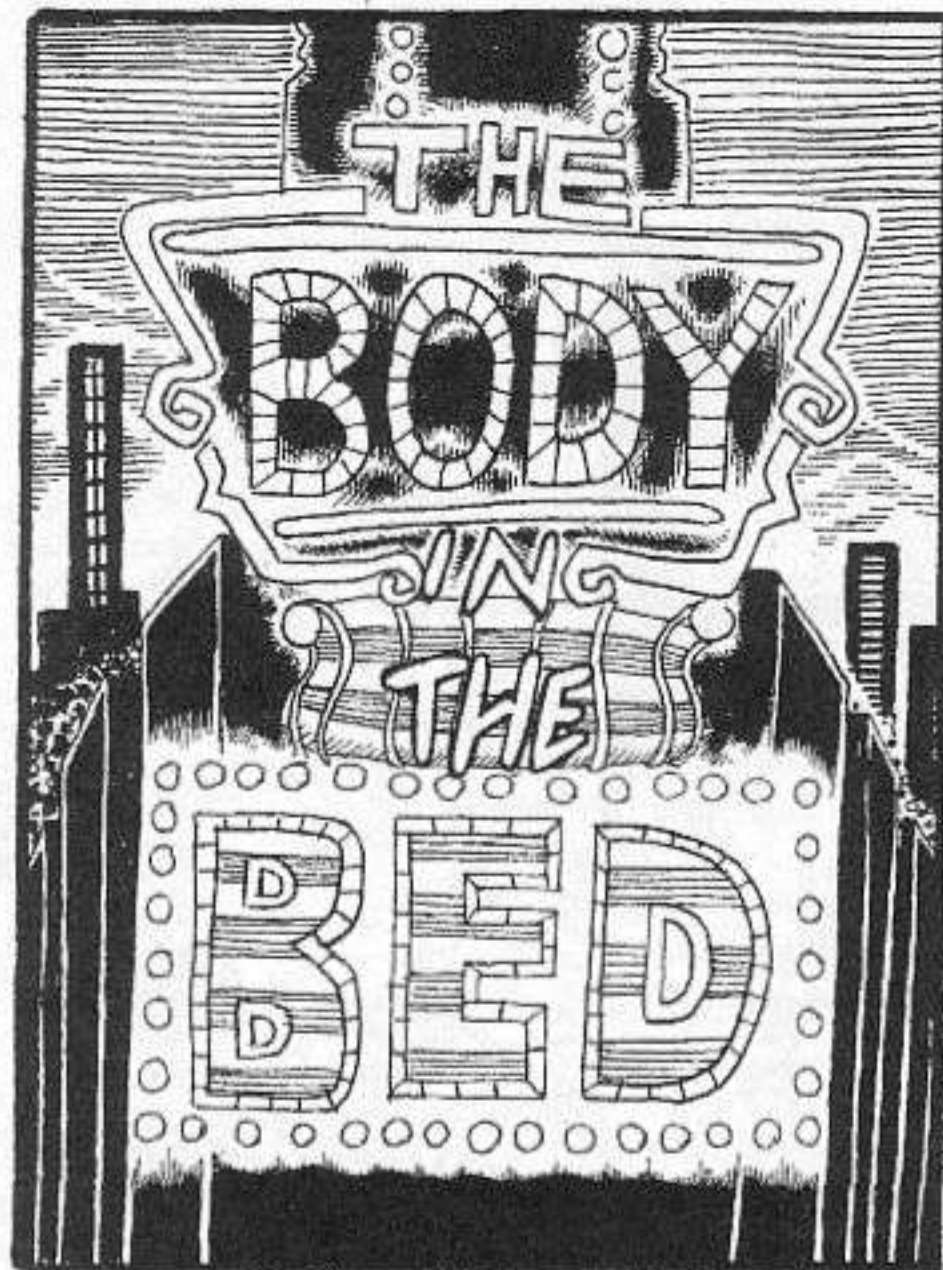
--TRAINS.





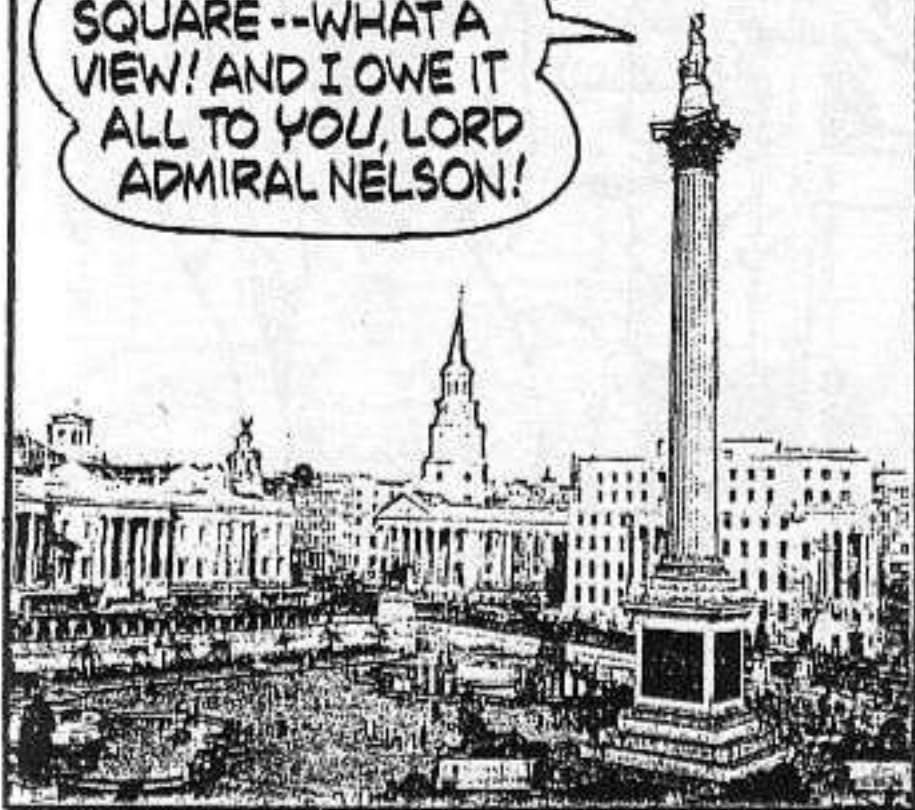






TAPPING THE ADMIRAL

AH, TRAFALGAR SQUARE--WHAT A VIEW! AND I OWE IT ALL TO YOU, LORD ADMIRAL NELSON!



OF COURSE, THE DEAR LORD IS DEAD NOW, BUT WHEN HE WAS ALIVE, HE SURE KNEW HOW TO LIVE.

WHY, I EVEN HEARD THAT WHEN OFFICERS IN THE FOREIGN SERVICE DIED, **BOOZE** WAS USED TO PRESERVE THEIR BODIES!



"WHICH REMINDS ME OF A STORY..."

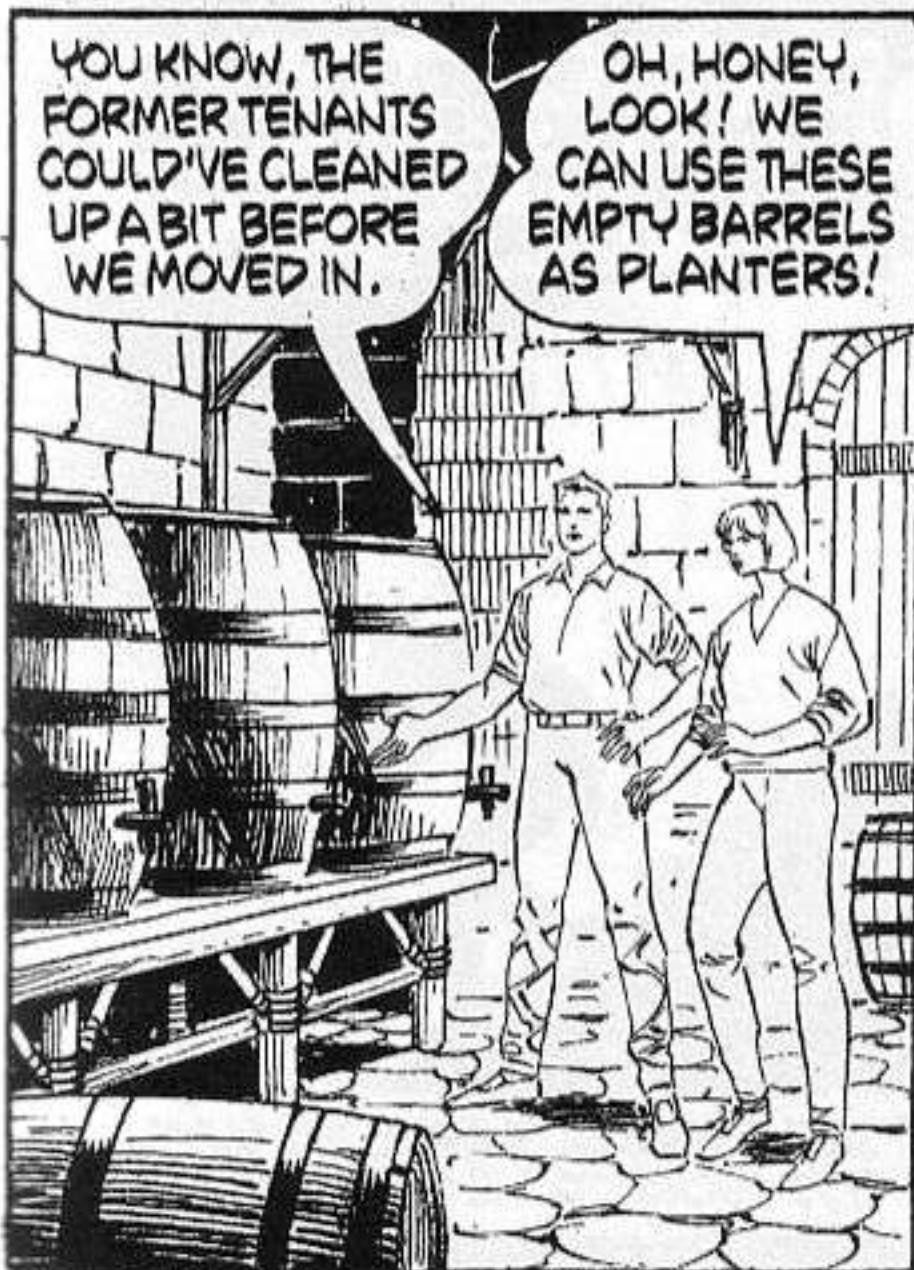
ISN'T IT WONDERFUL? OUR OWN CASTLE!

INDEED, FROM NOW ON, WE'RE LORD AND LADY OF THE MANOR!



YOU KNOW, THE FORMER TENANTS COULD'VE CLEANED UP A BIT BEFORE WE MOVED IN.

OH, HONEY, LOOK! WE CAN USE THESE EMPTY BARRELS AS PLANTERS!



THIS ONE IS FULL!



WOW! BRANDY. GOOD BRANDY!

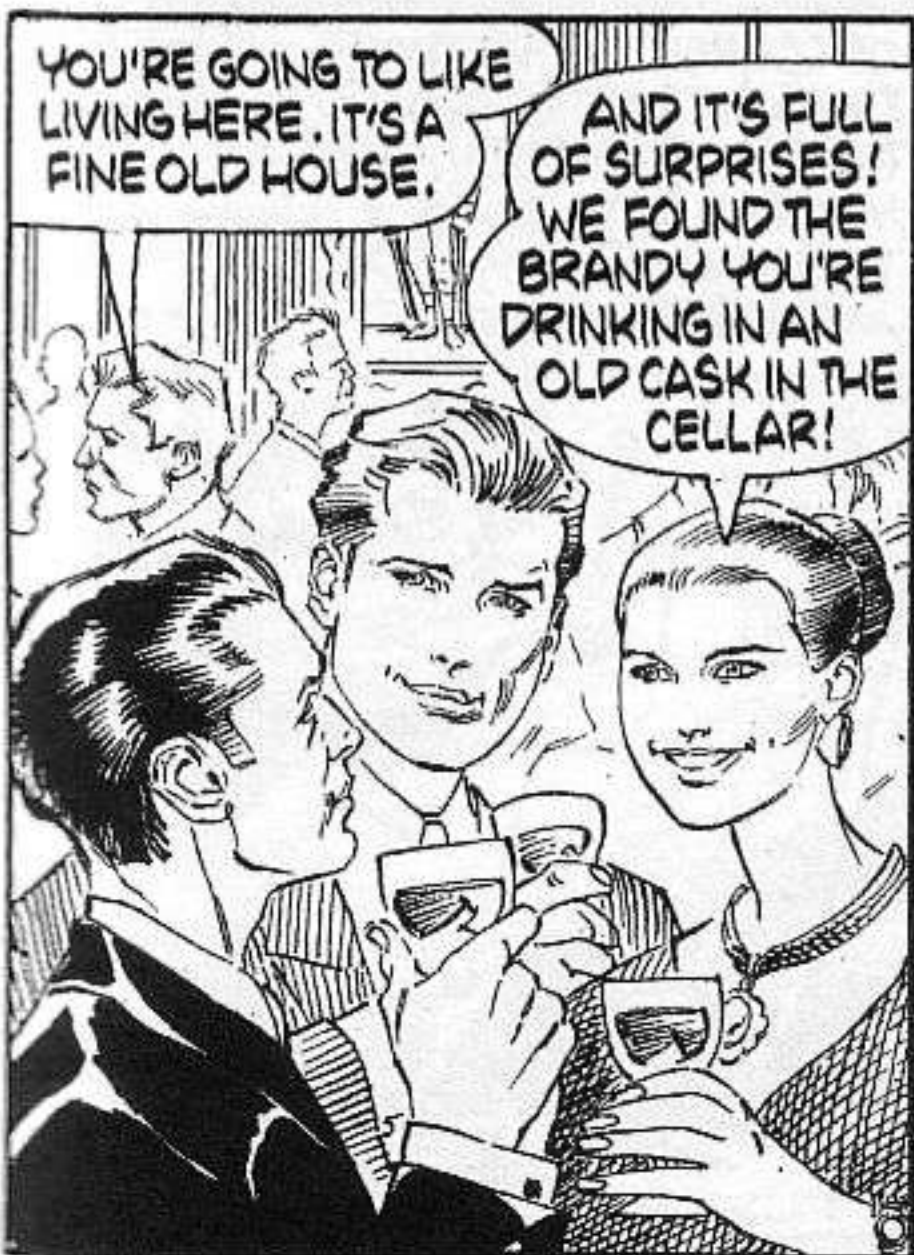
I WONDER HOW LONG IT'S BEEN HERE.



BUT I'M SURE OUR GUESTS WILL LOVE IT!

YOU'RE GOING TO LIKE LIVING HERE. IT'S A FINE OLD HOUSE.

AND IT'S FULL OF SURPRISES! WE FOUND THE BRANDY YOU'RE DRINKING IN AN OLD CASK IN THE CELLAR!



MONTHS LATER...

IT'S STILL TOO HEAVY TO BE EMPTY!



WELL, THAT'S ALL THE BRANDY THAT'S INSIDE... LET'S CUT IT OPEN!

GOOD LORD!

=GASP=

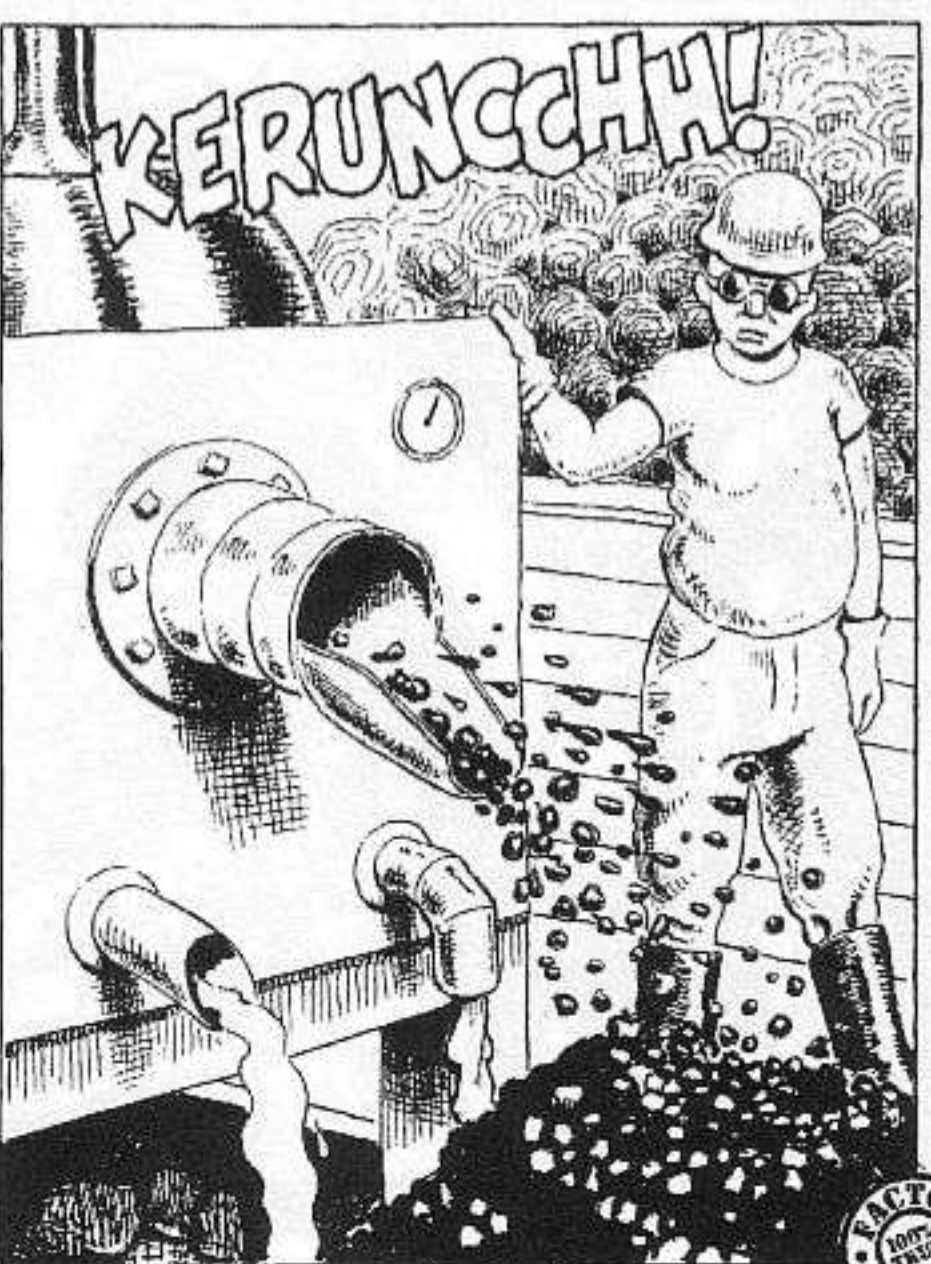
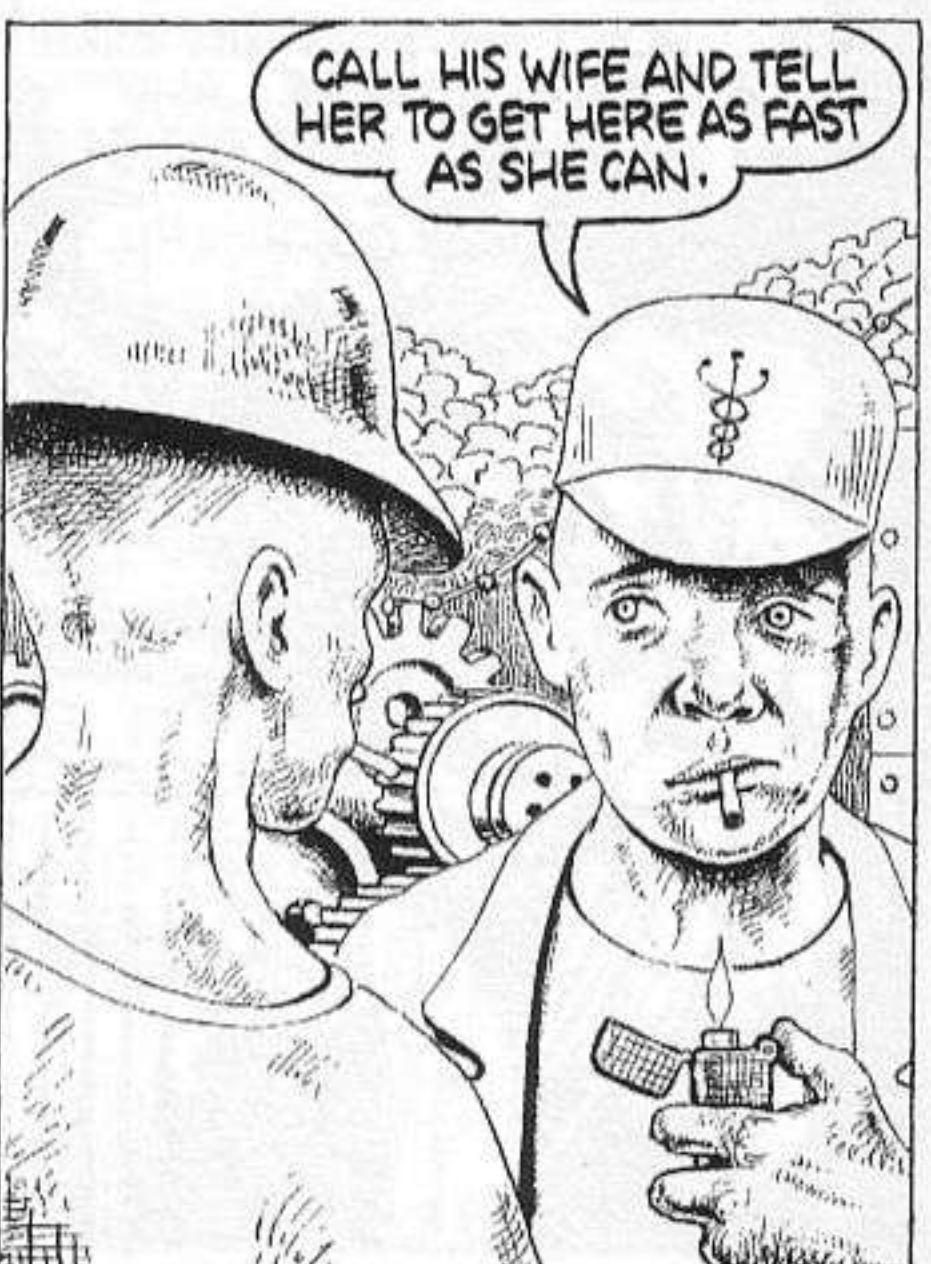
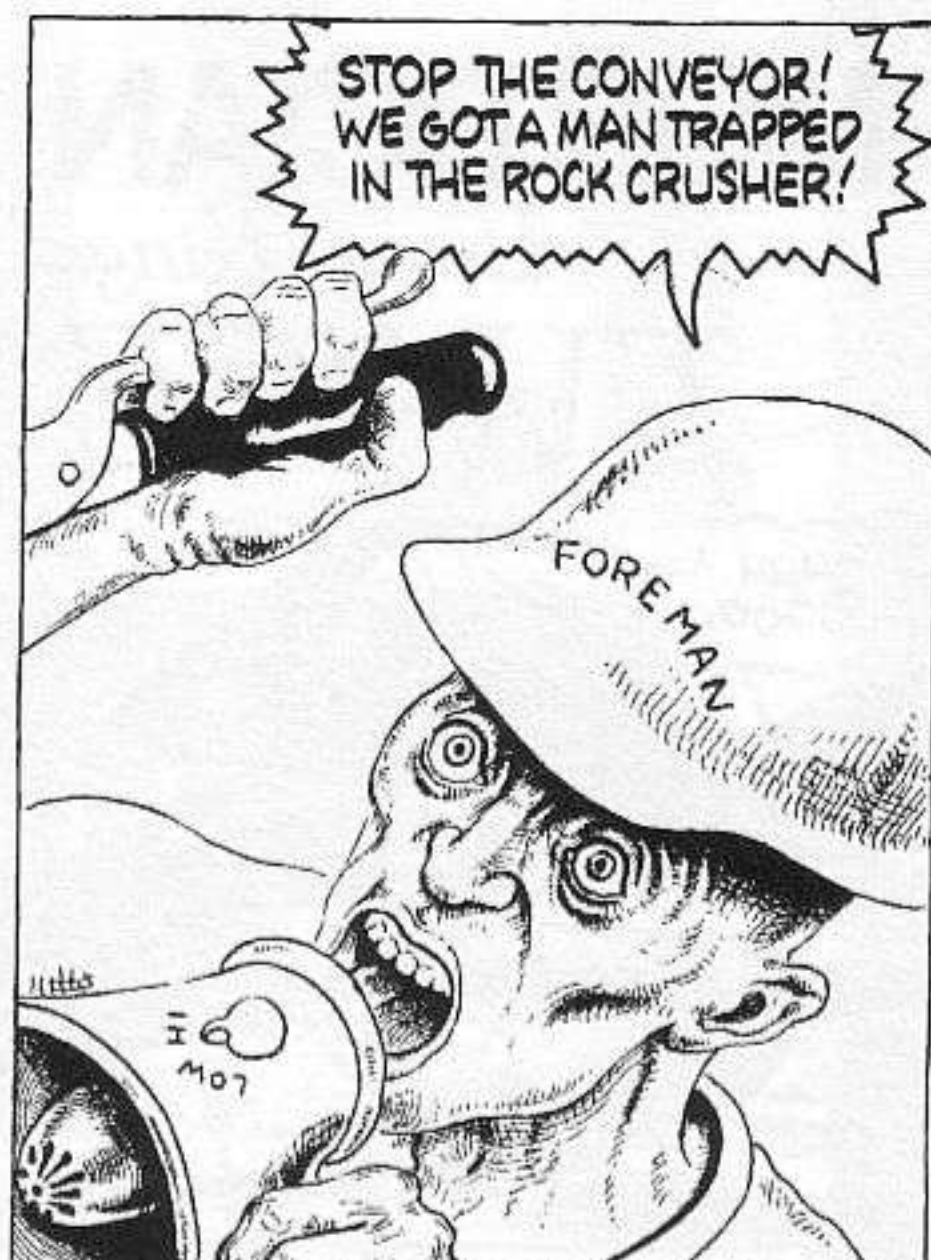
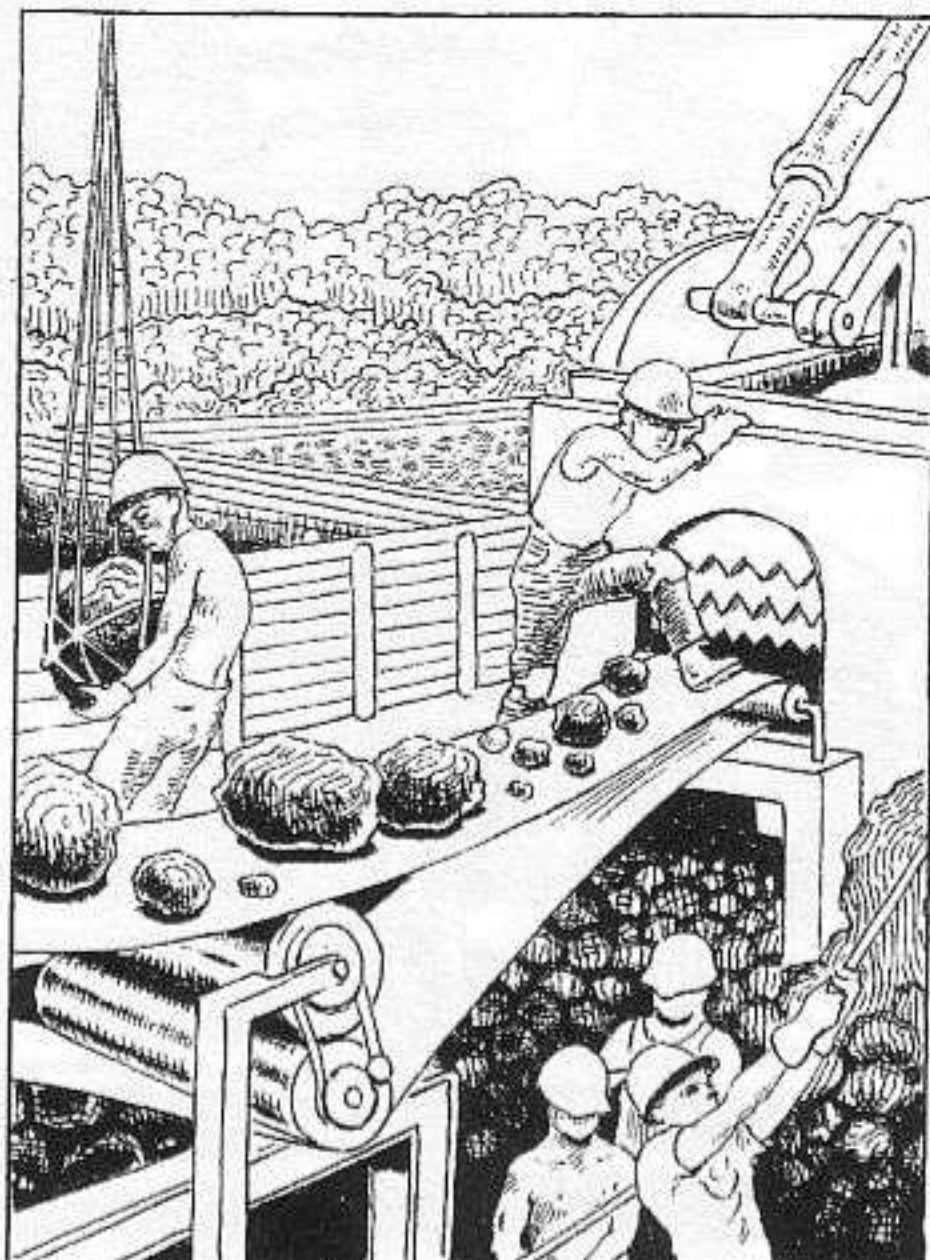
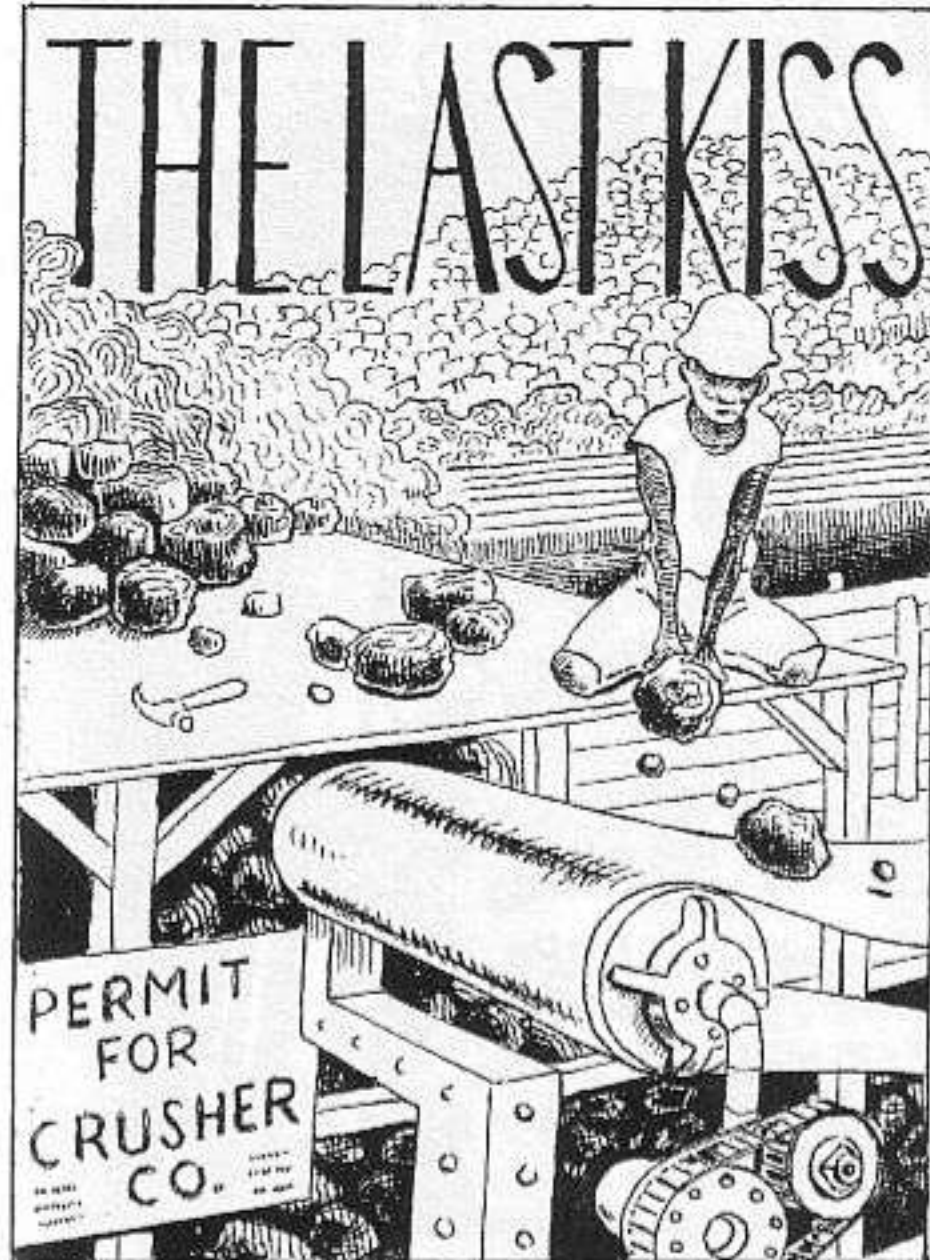






MOMMY'S LITTLE HELPER.





«he MORTICIAN *Always Rings* TWICE»



CHAPTER FOUR

COMIC CALAMITIES

ACCIDENT LEGENDS

There are urban legends about gruesome accidents and hilarious accidents, the distinction being more a matter of how a story is told than of the actual incidents described. The “Barrel of Bricks” (*page 110*), for example, has been performed as a funny stage routine by several comedians, and it was also turned into a pseudo-folksong (“Dear Boss”); but the slapstick misadventures described, about the poor guy on the construction job, would (as the first panel shows) put him in intensive care for weeks. Then there’s “The Ski Accident,” my personal favorite (*page 104*). Murphy’s Law rules in this chapter.

HI, I'M PROFESSOR JAN HAROLD BRUNVAND AND I'M HERE TO TELL YOU ONE OF THE "HOTTEST" URBAN LEGENDS GOING!

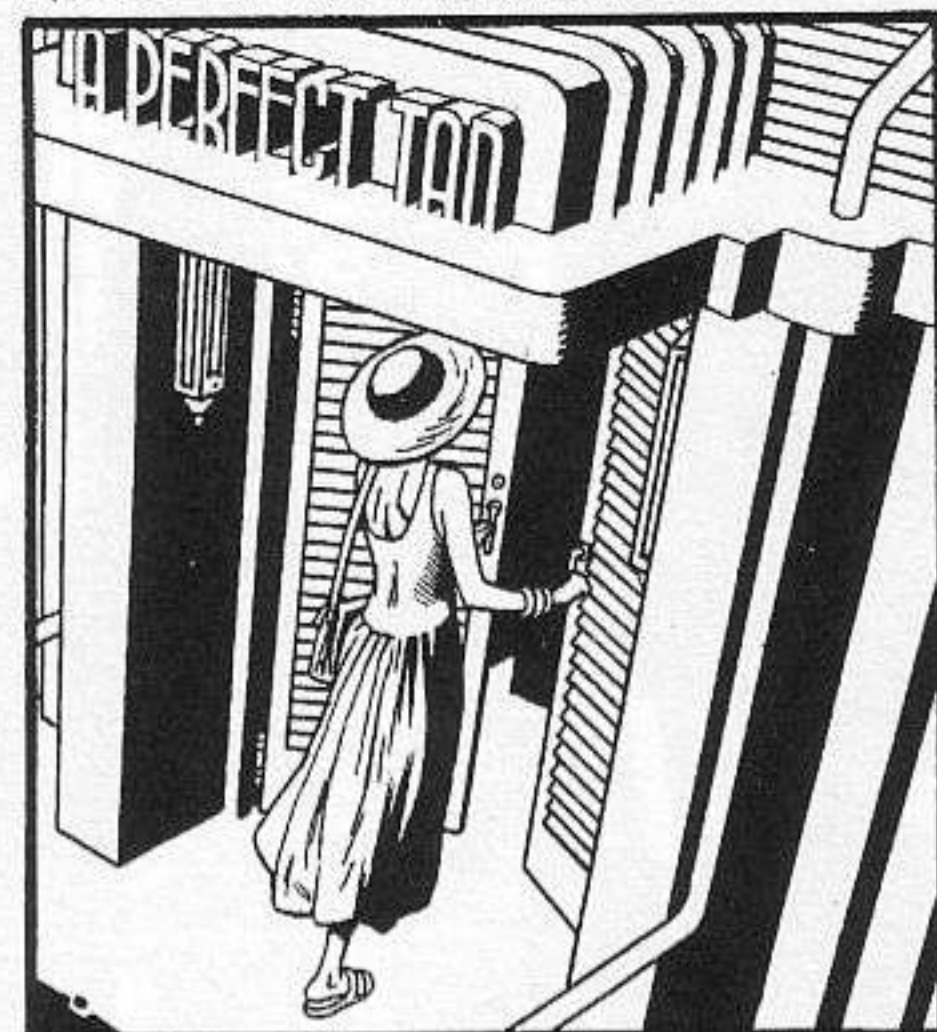
IT'S CALLED...

CURSES! BROILED AGAIN!

"BUT SHE SOON DISCOVERED THAT HER LOCAL TANNING SALON HAD A RULE TO PROTECT CUSTOMERS FROM OVEREXPOSURE.

"SO SHE CIRCUMVENTED THAT BY SIGNING UP AT FOUR DIFFERENT SALONS...

"A YOUNG WOMAN WHO WAS TO BE THE MAID OF HONOR IN HER BEST FRIEND'S WEDDING DECIDED AT THE LAST MINUTE TO GET A QUICK TAN FOR THE OCCASION.



"...THUS GETTING FOUR TIMES THE RECOMMENDED DOSAGE.

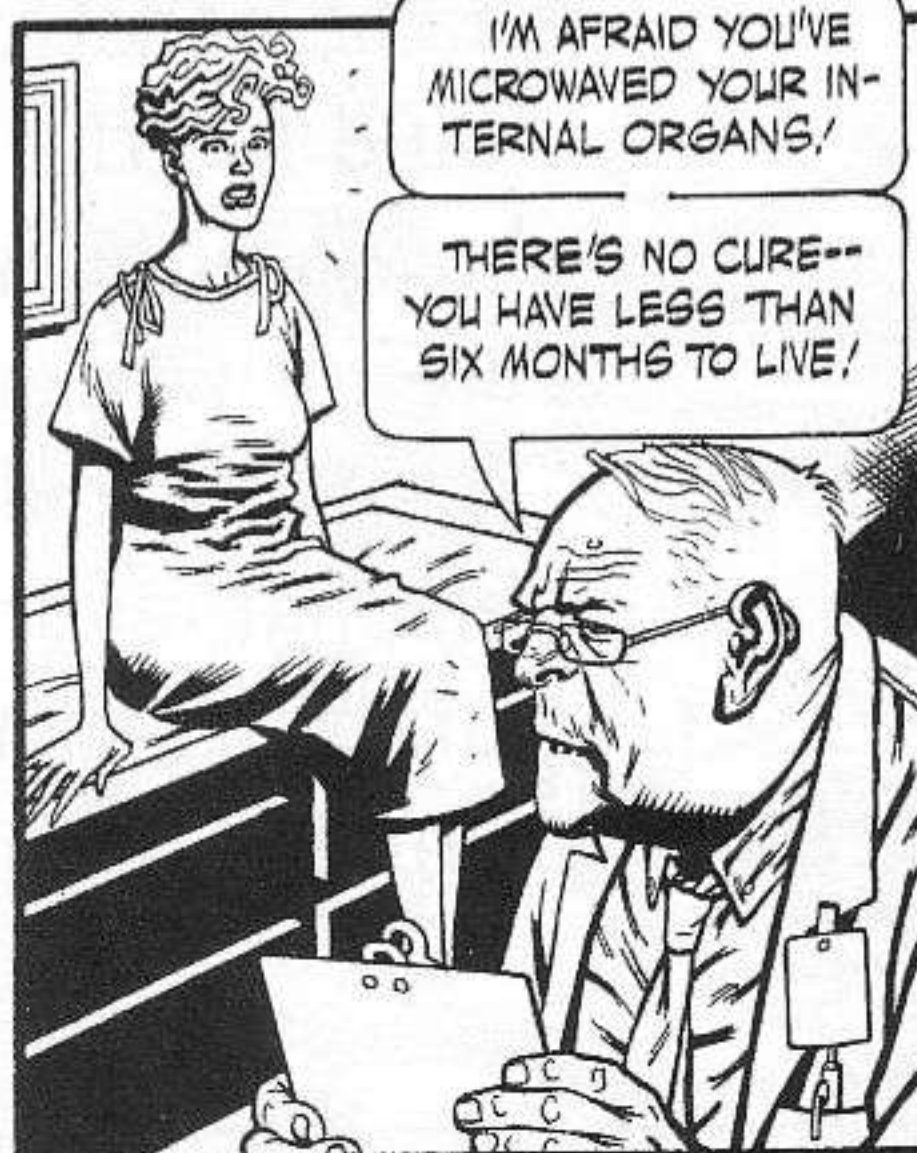


"SOME TIME LATER, THE WOMAN'S HUSBAND BEGAN TO NOTICE THAT SHE 'SMELLED FUNNY.'

"SHE WENT TO THE DOCTOR, WHO GAVE HER THE BAD NEWS..."



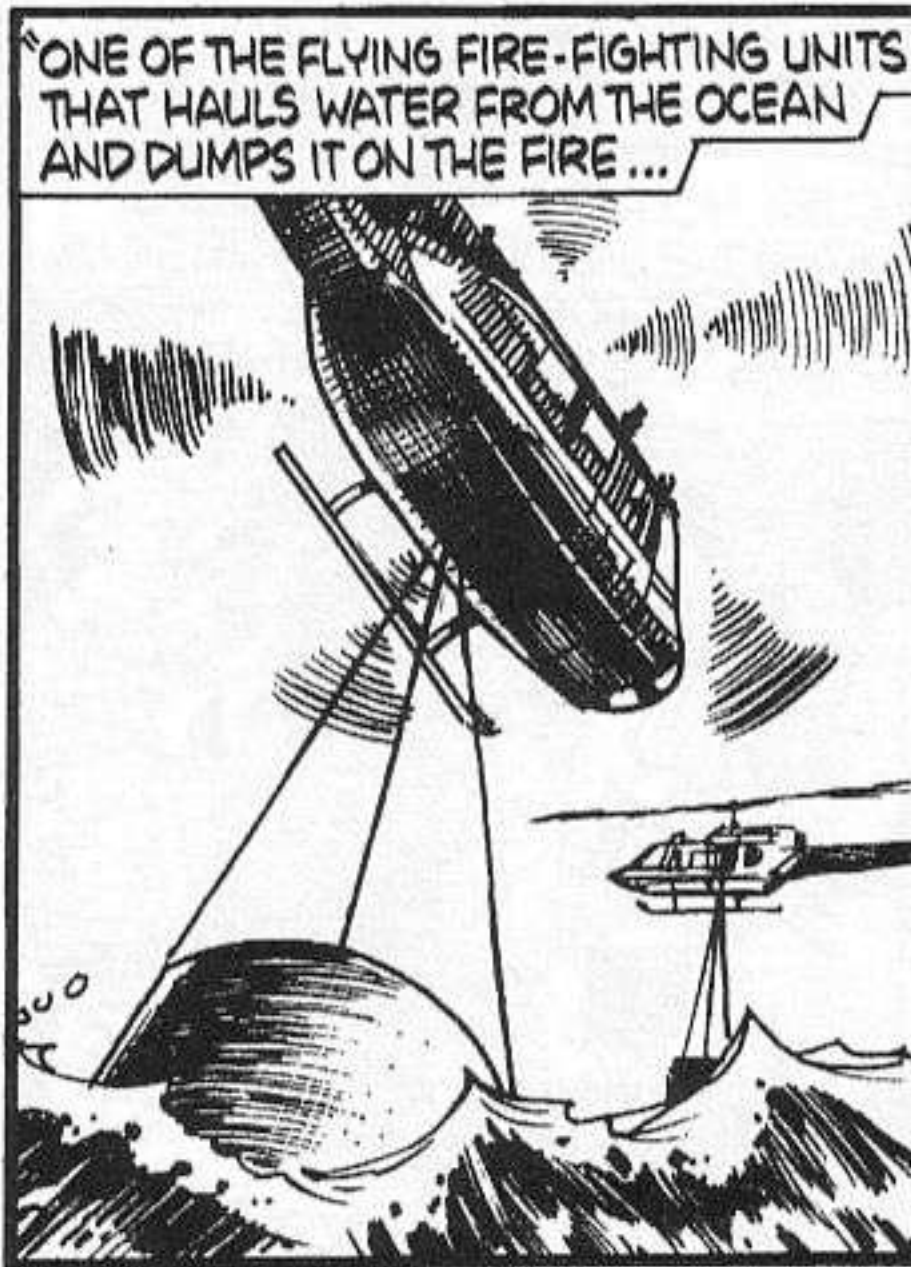
"SHE SHOWERED AND SHOWERED, BUT THE SMELL WOULDN'T GO AWAY.



MY READERS HAVE SENT ME VERSIONS OF THIS LEGEND FROM UTAH, PENNSYLVANIA, NEW YORK, OHIO, AND EVEN FLORIDA!



FISH OUT OF WATER





THE SMASHED BUG



WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT??

IT SOUNDED LIKE A BOMB!!



HOLY COW! NOBODY COULD'VE SURVIVED SUCH A COLLISION!

IT SEEMS WE'RE THE ONLY ONES WHO KNOW ABOUT IT!

WE'D BETTER CALL THE POLICE!



TWO HOURS LATER...

SURE, YOU CAN LEAVE THE WRECKS ON MY LOT FOR AS LONG AS NECESSARY!

THANK YOU, SIR. OUR INVESTIGATION SHOULD BE COMPLETE IN A FEW WEEKS AT MOST.

THOSE POOR DRIVERS! KILLED INSTANTLY!



THREE WEEKS LATER...

INVESTIGATION NOTHING! I WANT THOSE WRECKS OFF MY LAND TODAY!

YOU JUST COME OVER HERE YOURSELF AND YOU WON'T HAVE TO ASK WHY!



MAN! THAT'S ONE HELL OF A STENCH!

WHAT DO YOU THINK I'VE BEEN TELLING YOU??

WELL, MY TOW TRUCK'LL PULL THE RIGS APART AND CART 'EM AWAY!



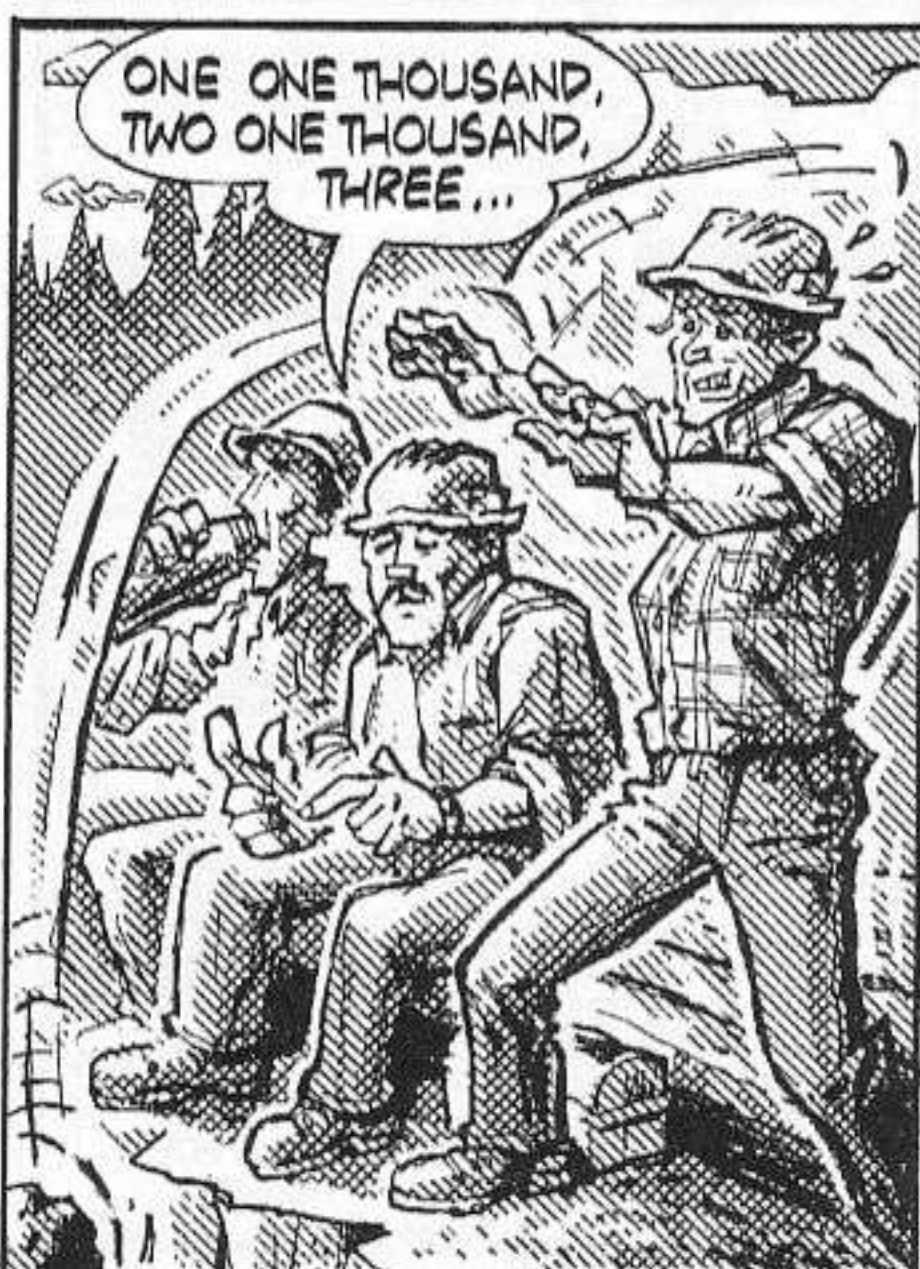
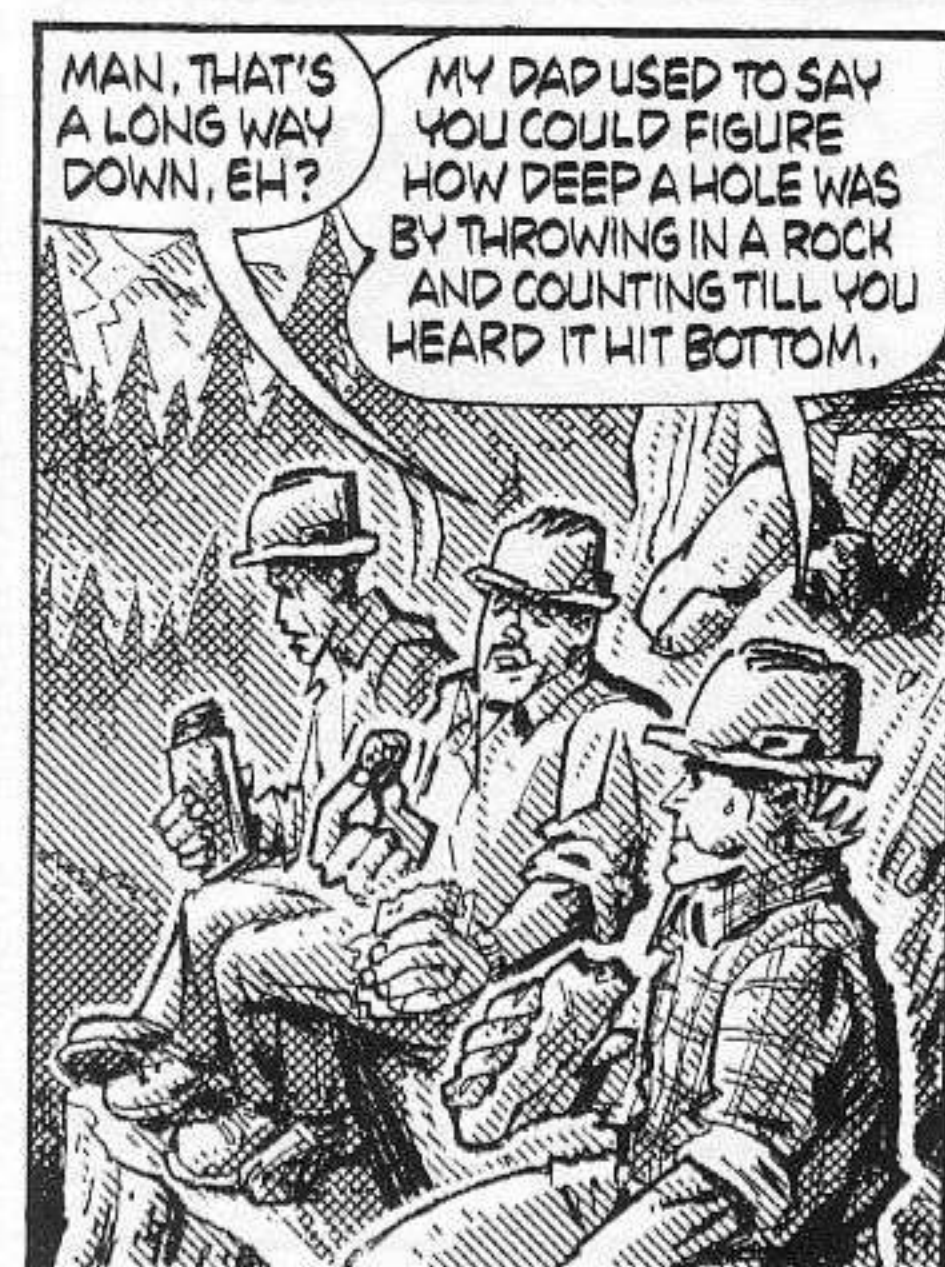
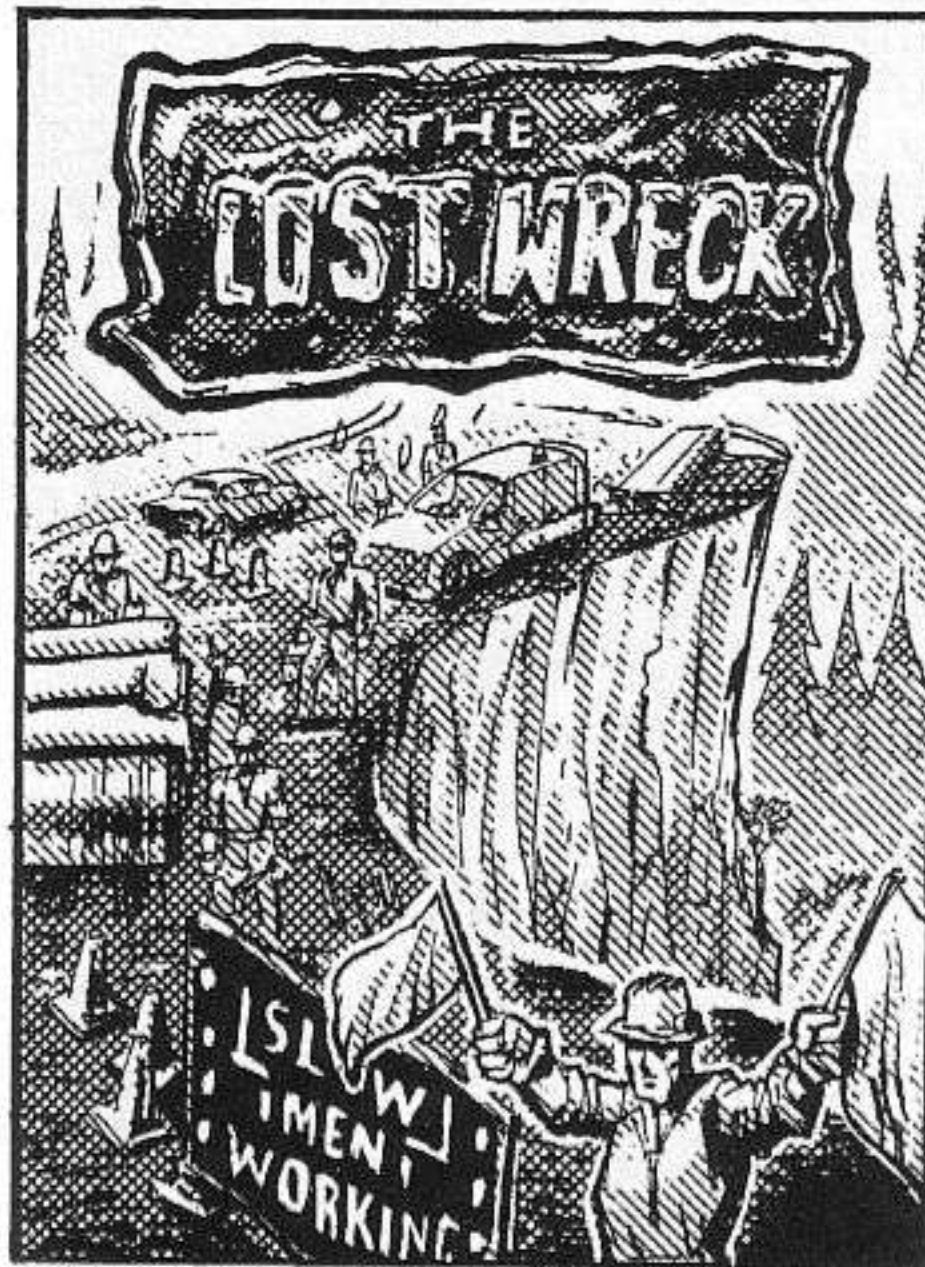
KREEESSSH

WHAT'S THAT?

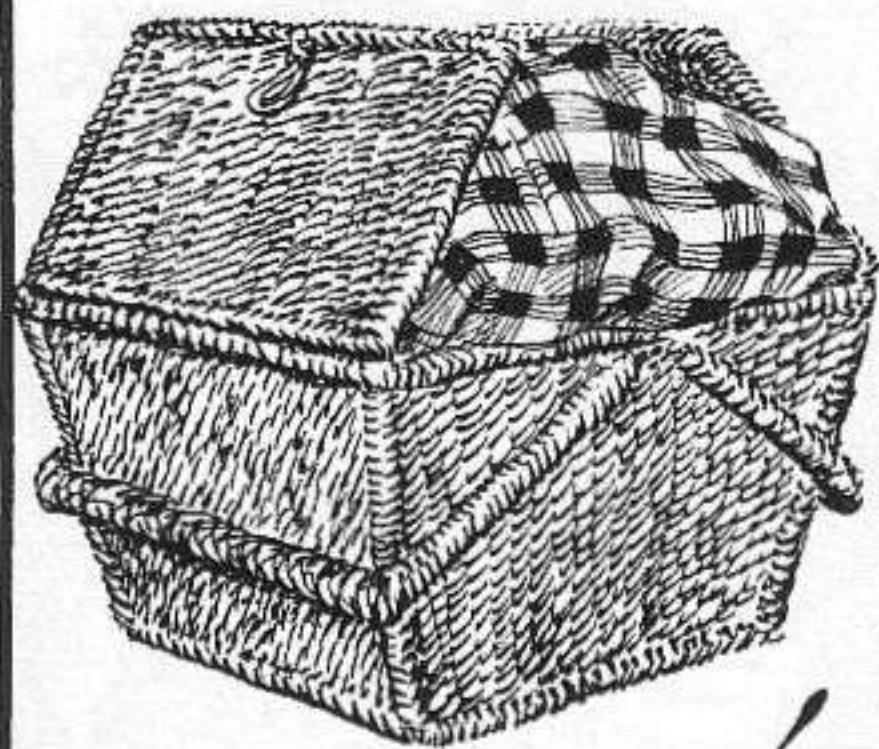


IT CAN'T BE WHAT I THINK IT IS!

OH, YES IT CAN! THAT'S A VOLKSWAGEN BEETLE-- WITH AT LEAST THREE PEOPLE INSIDE!!



The Wrong



Rest Stop



THERE WAS A DRIVER USED TO STOP HERE ALL THE TIME. HE MADE THIS RUN TWICE A WEEK FOR TWENTY YEARS AND THEN ONE DAY HE JUST QUIT.

WHAT HAPPENED?



"HE RAN INTO SOME TROUBLE COMIN' ROUND THE DEVIL'S ELBOW, A STRETCH OF ROAD UP NORTH JUST LOADED WITH BLIND CURVES."

"HE'D MADE IT OVER THE TOP O' THE ELBOW, AND WAS SWITCHIN' GEARS TO TAKE THE TURNS ON THE DOWN SIDE."



"MEANWHILE, COMIN' UP THE ELBOW IN THE OTHER DIRECTION, WAS THIS VACATIONING FAMILY."

I'M HUNGRY!



LET'S PULL OVER FOR A PICNIC, HONEY!

OKAY! THERE'S A REST STOP RIGHT OVER THERE!

"UP THE ROAD A PIECE, OUR TRUCKER WAS HAVIN' SOME PROBLEMS..."



BRAKES AIN'T GONNA HOLD. WHERE'S THE EMERGENCY RAMP WHEN YOU NEED IT?

"A FEW SECONDS LATER, HE HAD HIS ANSWER."

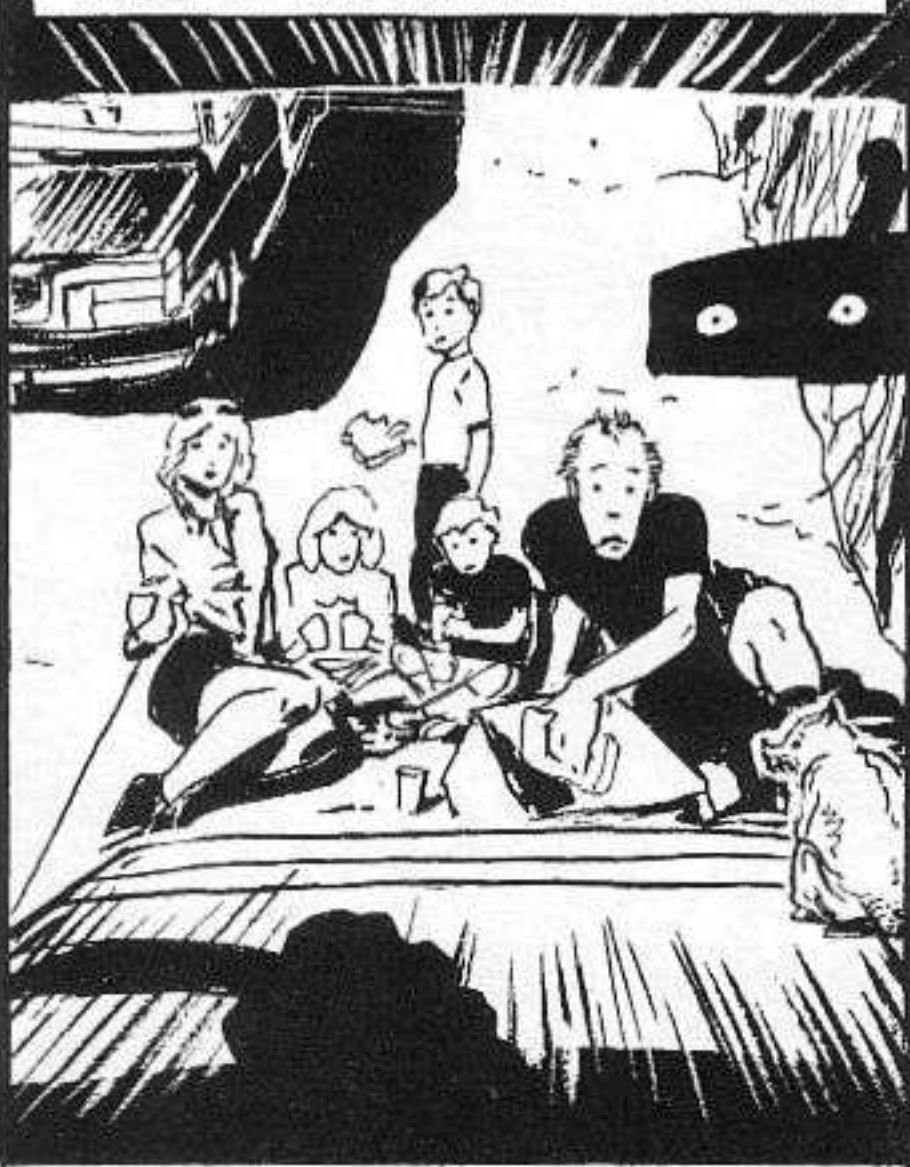
SAFETY AHEAD
1000 YARDS

THANK GOD!

"HE TURNED THE RIG AROUND THE LAST BLIND CURVE AND UP THE RAMP..."



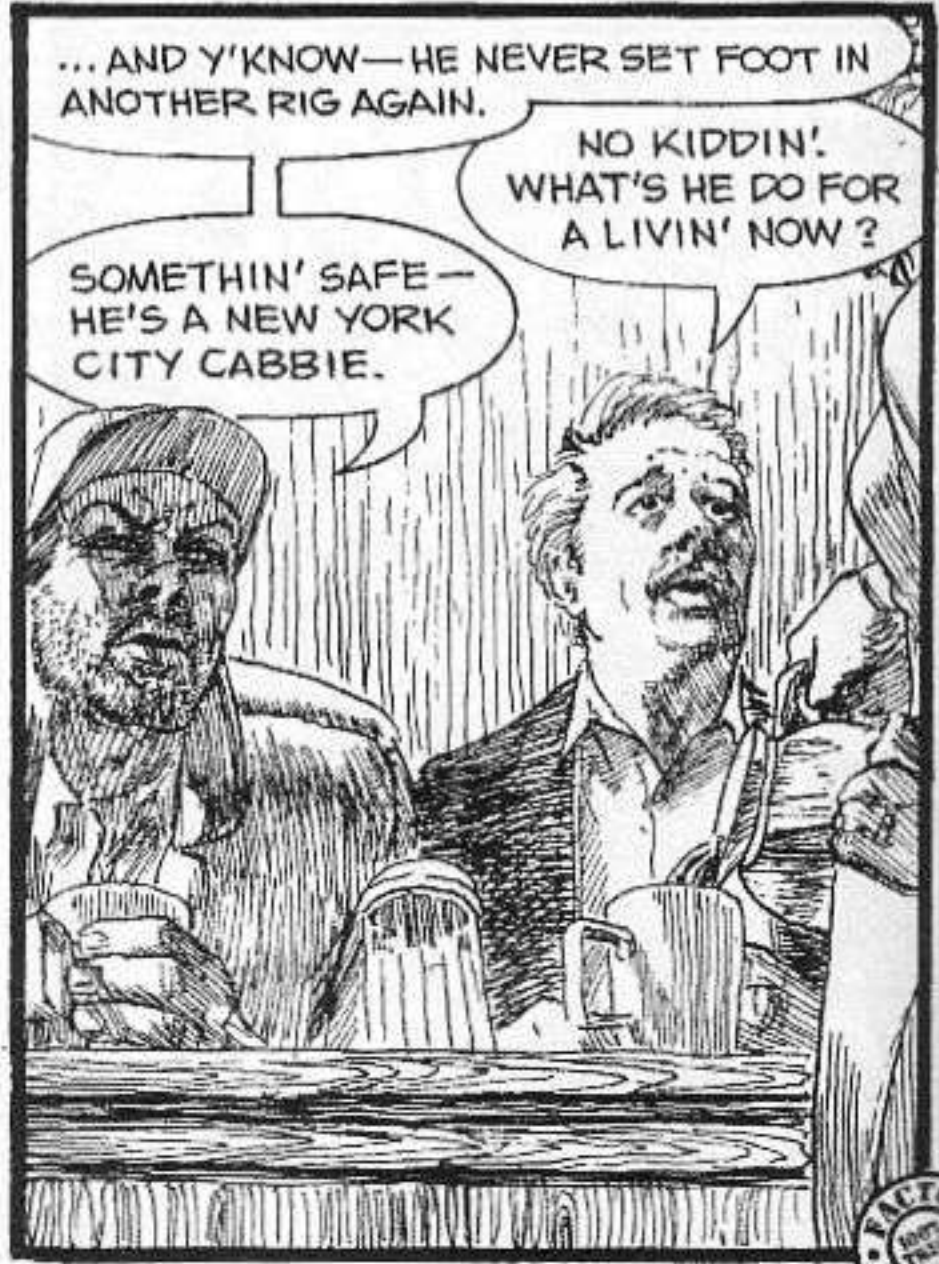
"...BUT IT WAS ALREADY OCCUPIED!"



... AND Y'KNOW—HE NEVER SET FOOT IN ANOTHER RIG AGAIN.

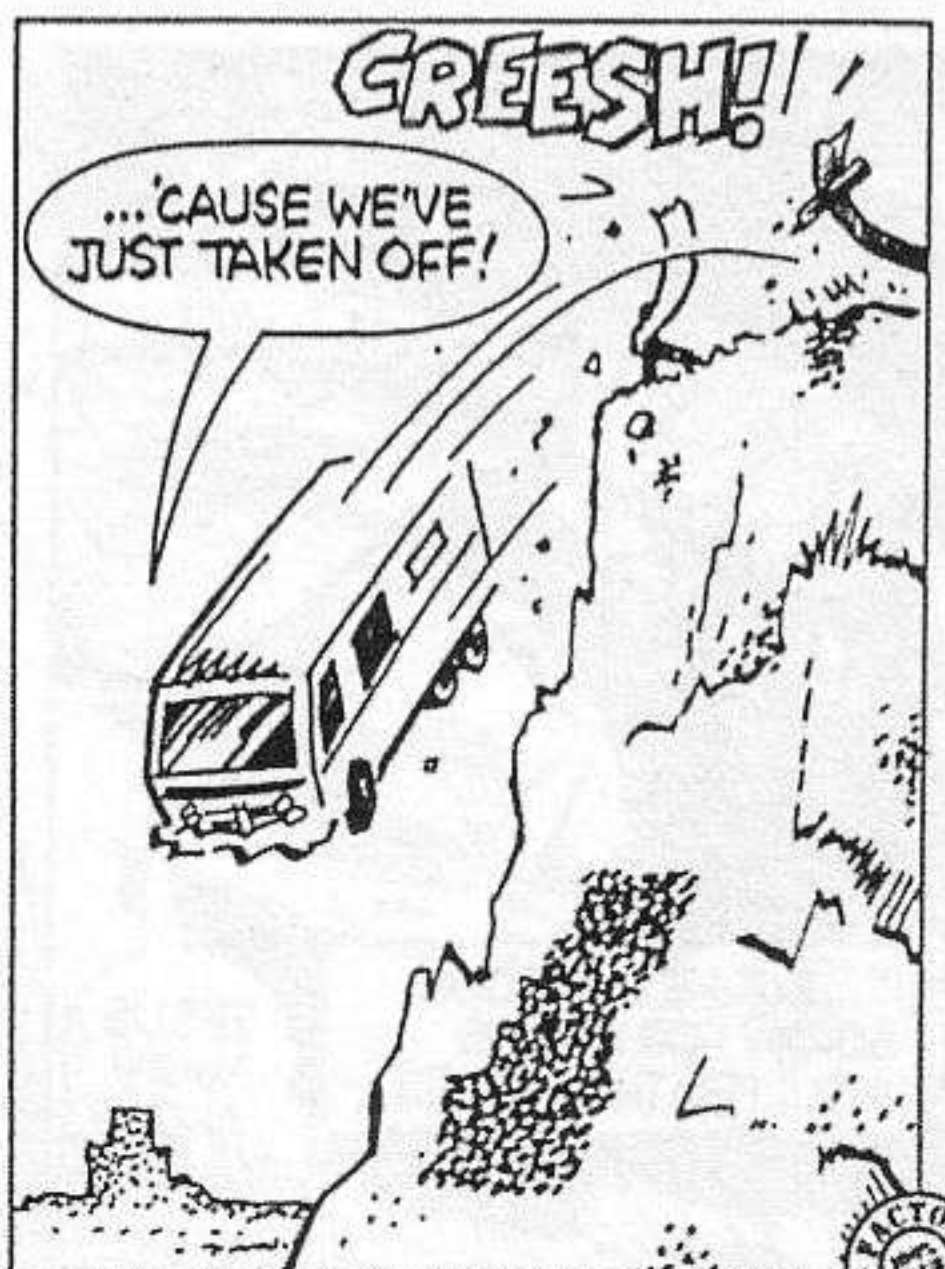
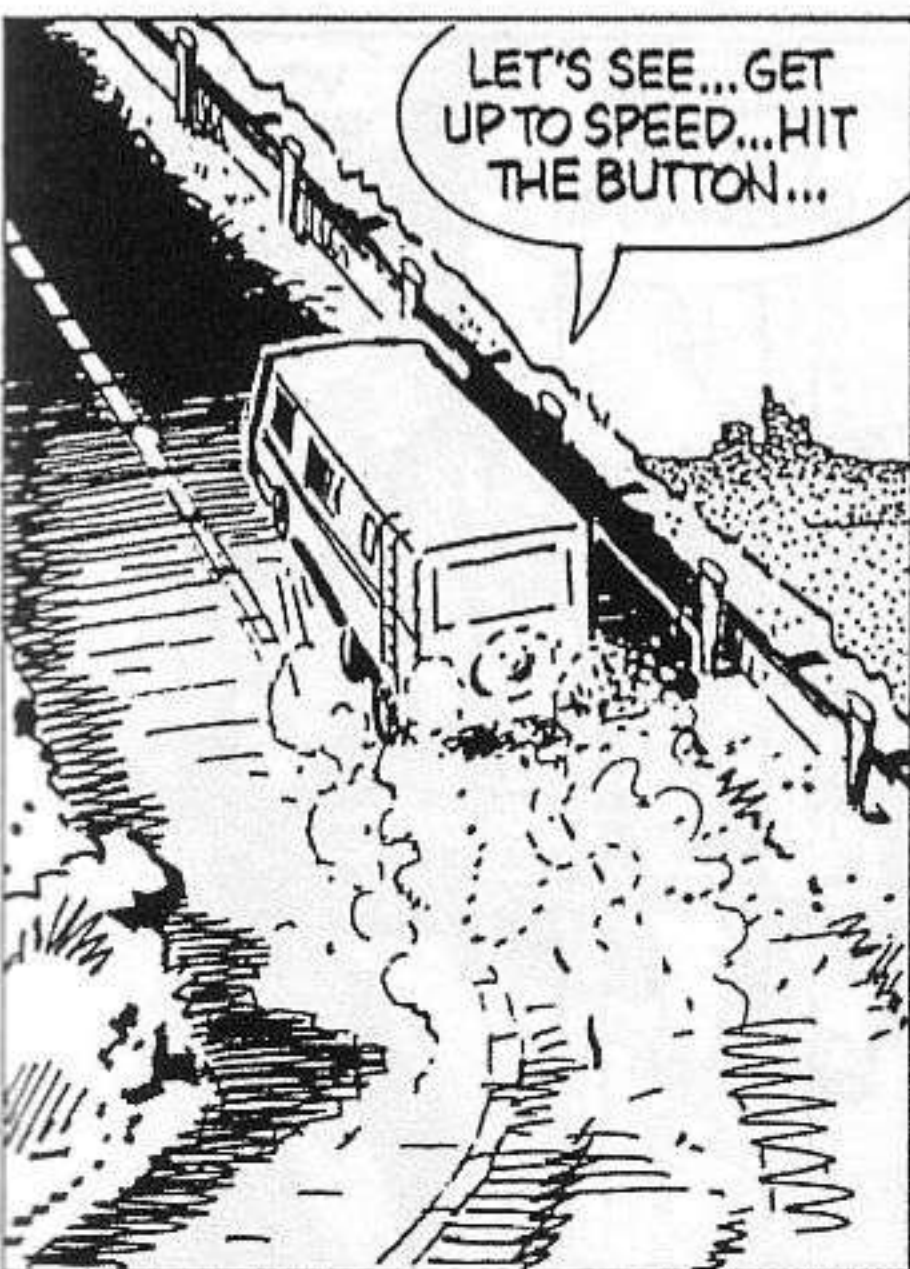
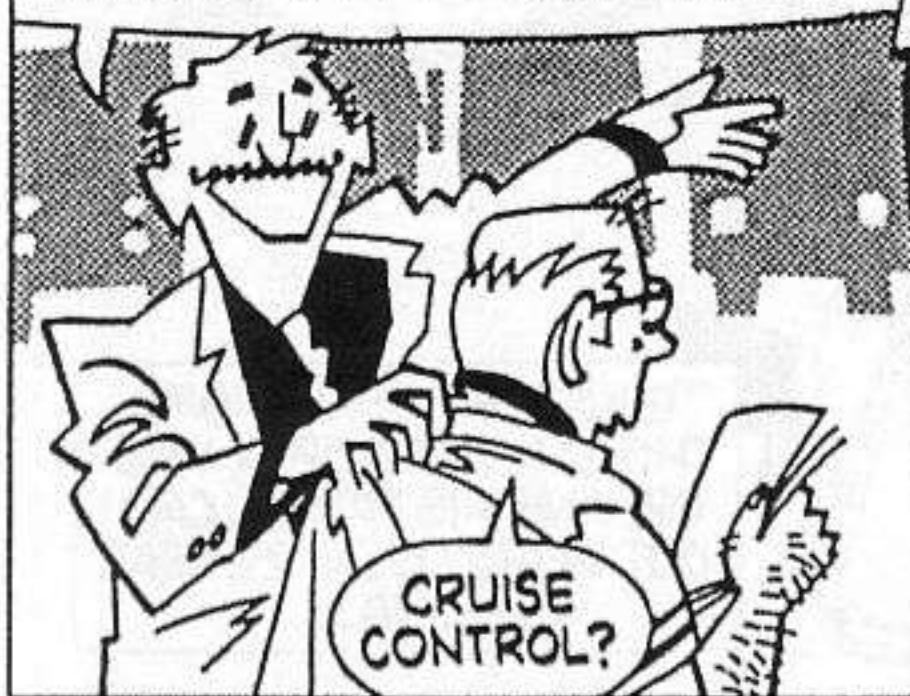
NO KIDDIN'! WHAT'S HE DO FOR A LIVIN' NOW?

SOMETHIN' SAFE—HE'S A NEW YORK CITY CABBIE.



... AND THIS BABY'S GOT IT ALL: ANTI-LOCK BRAKES, COMPUTERIZED TEMPERATURE CONTROL, AND THE ONE ABSOLUTE NECESSITY FOR CROSS-COUNTRY TRIPS...

CRUISE CONTROL



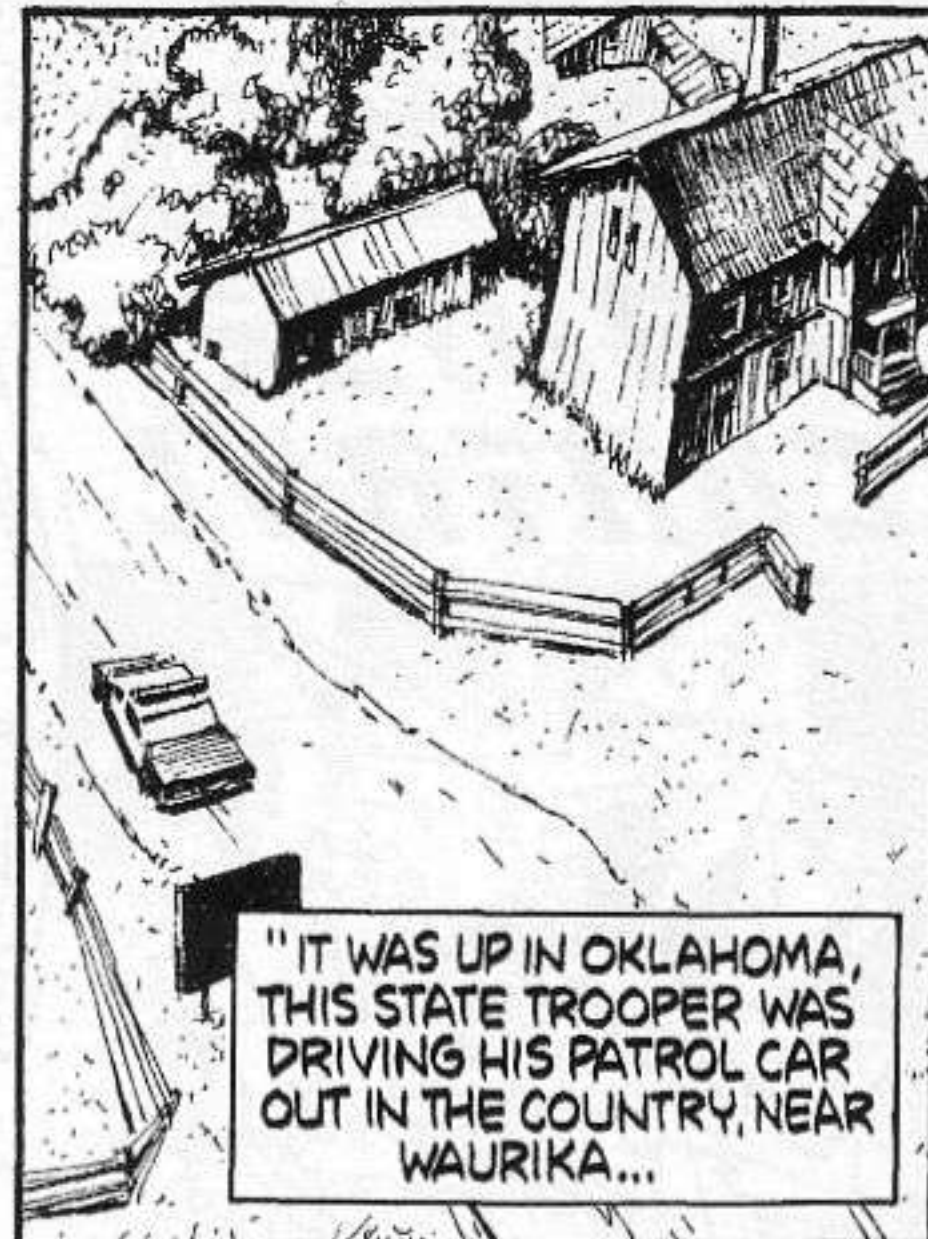
THE PIG ON THE ROAD

WAS THAT PORK
WE ATE TONIGHT?

IT TASTED LIKE
SHOE LEATHER!

THAT REMINDS ME
OF A TRUE STORY THAT
ACTUALLY HAPPENED
TO THE STATE TROOPER...

... WHO BUSTED MY
CELLMATE'S
BAILBONDSMAN'S
BROTHER-IN-LAW!



"... WHEN HE SPOTS A FARMER
JUMPING UP AND DOWN BY
THE ROADSIDE..."



"... SCREAMING
AT THE TOP OF
HIS LUNGS!"



"WELL, THIS STATE TROOPER WASN'T
THIN-SKINNED AND COULD GIVE AS
GOOD AS HE GOT, SO HE JUST YELLED
RIGHT BACK..."



"... BUT HE WAS SOON
SORRY FOR HAVING
INSULTED THE FARMER..."

JESUS,
MARY
AND
JOSEPH!



"... WHO WAS, AFTER ALL,
ONLY TRYING TO WARN HIM!"

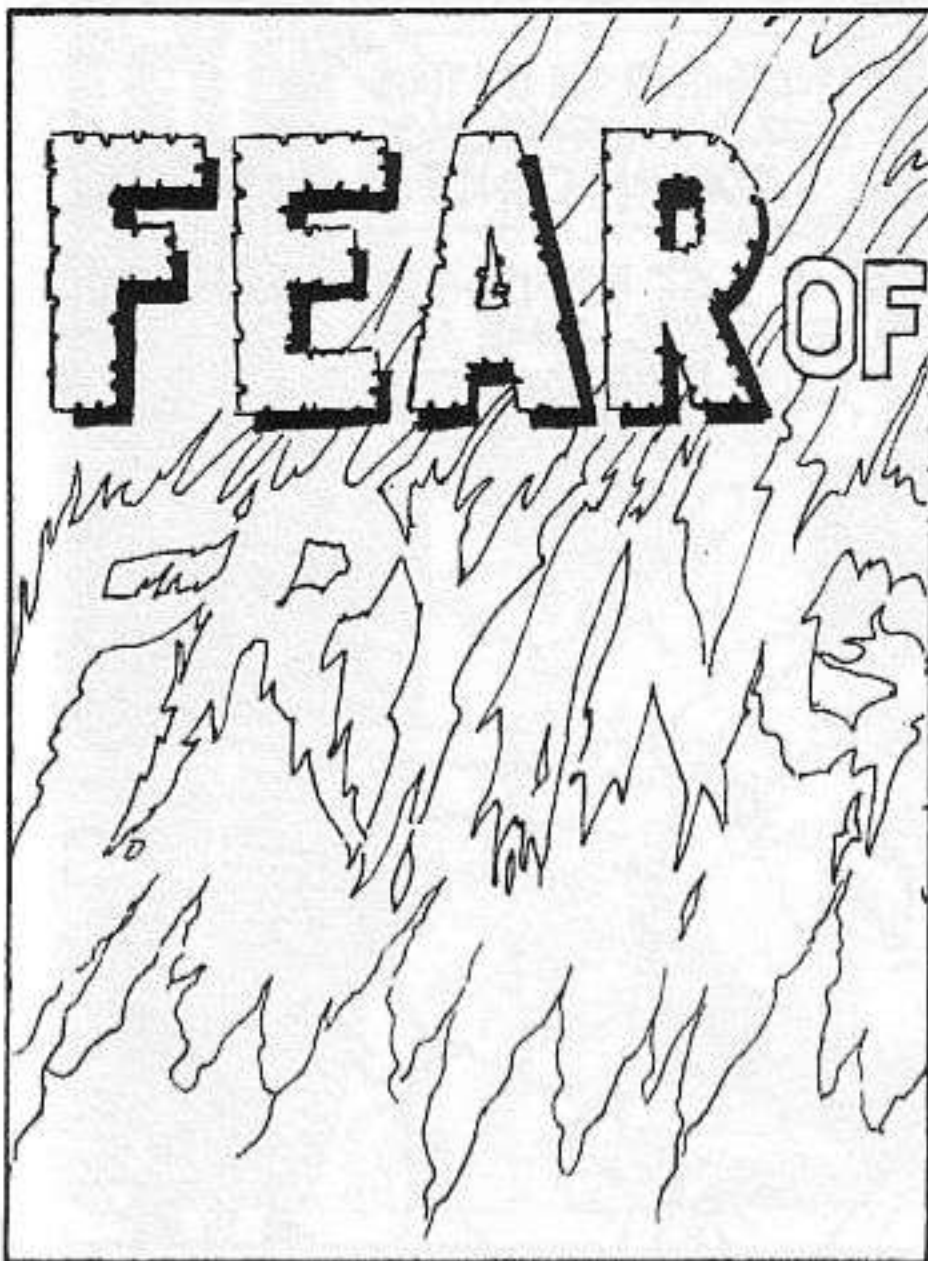


WHAT ARE
YOU TWO
LAUGHING AT?

YOU HAD TO
BE THERE ---

AND YOU
PROBABLY
WERE!

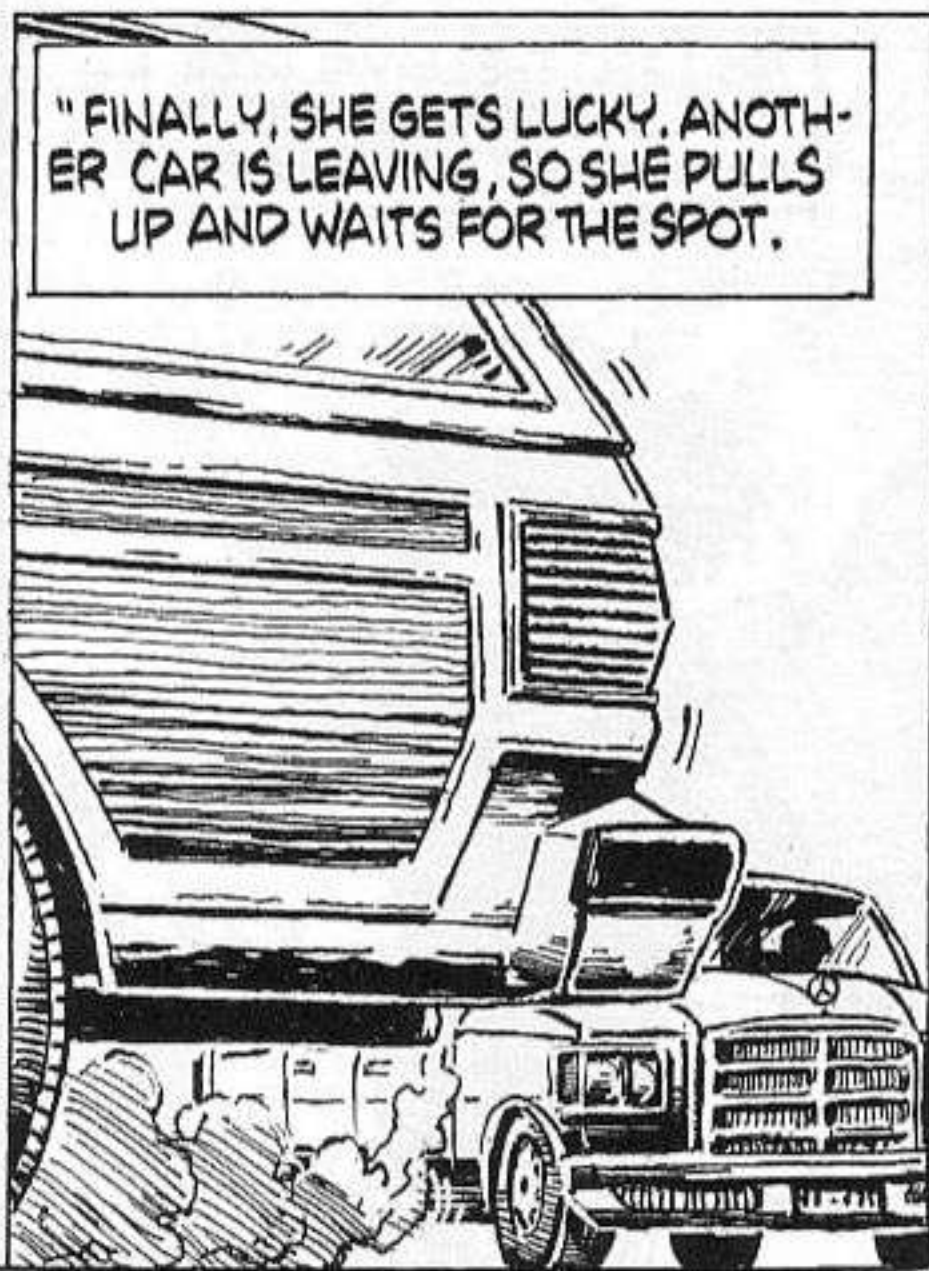
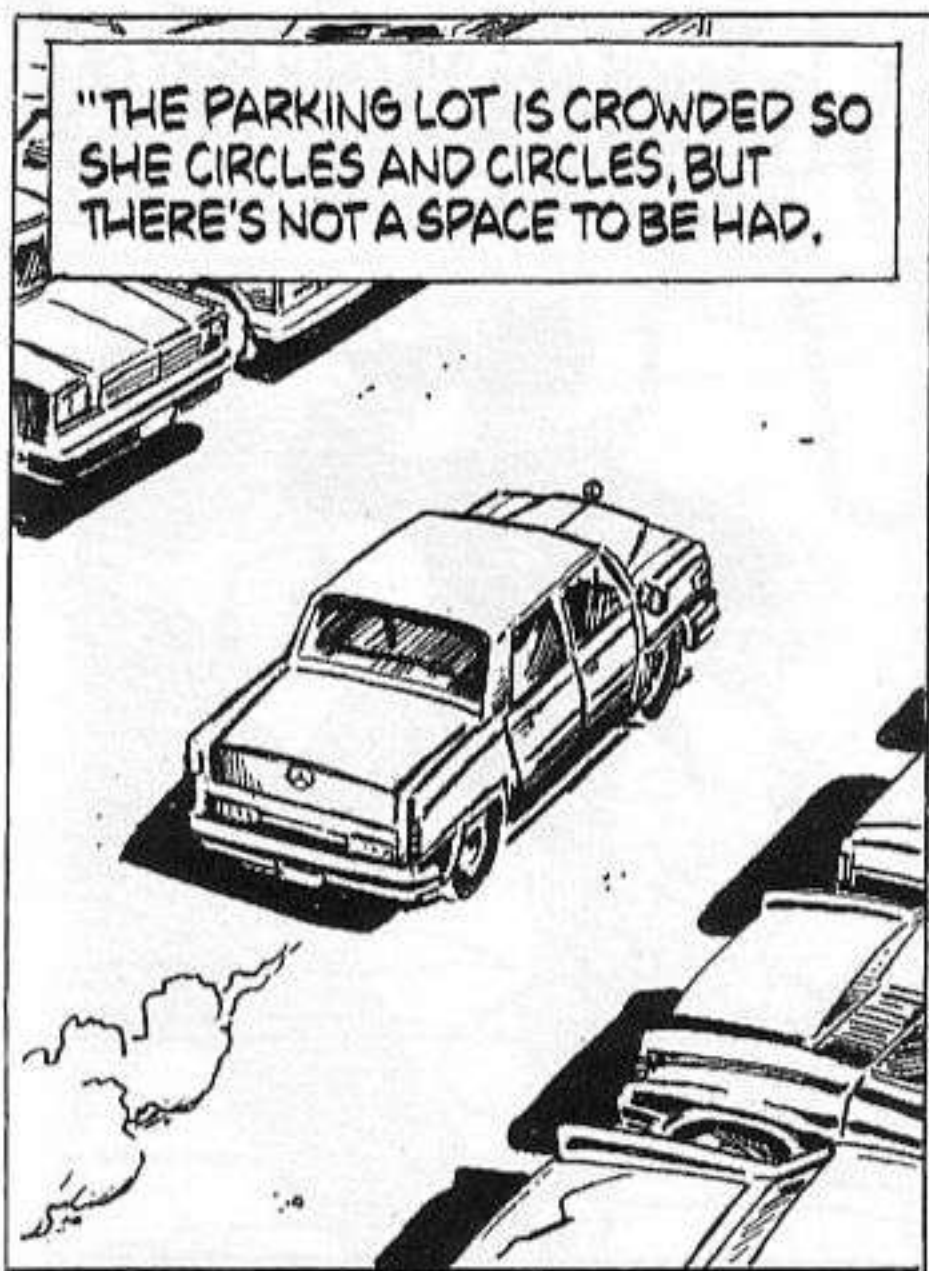




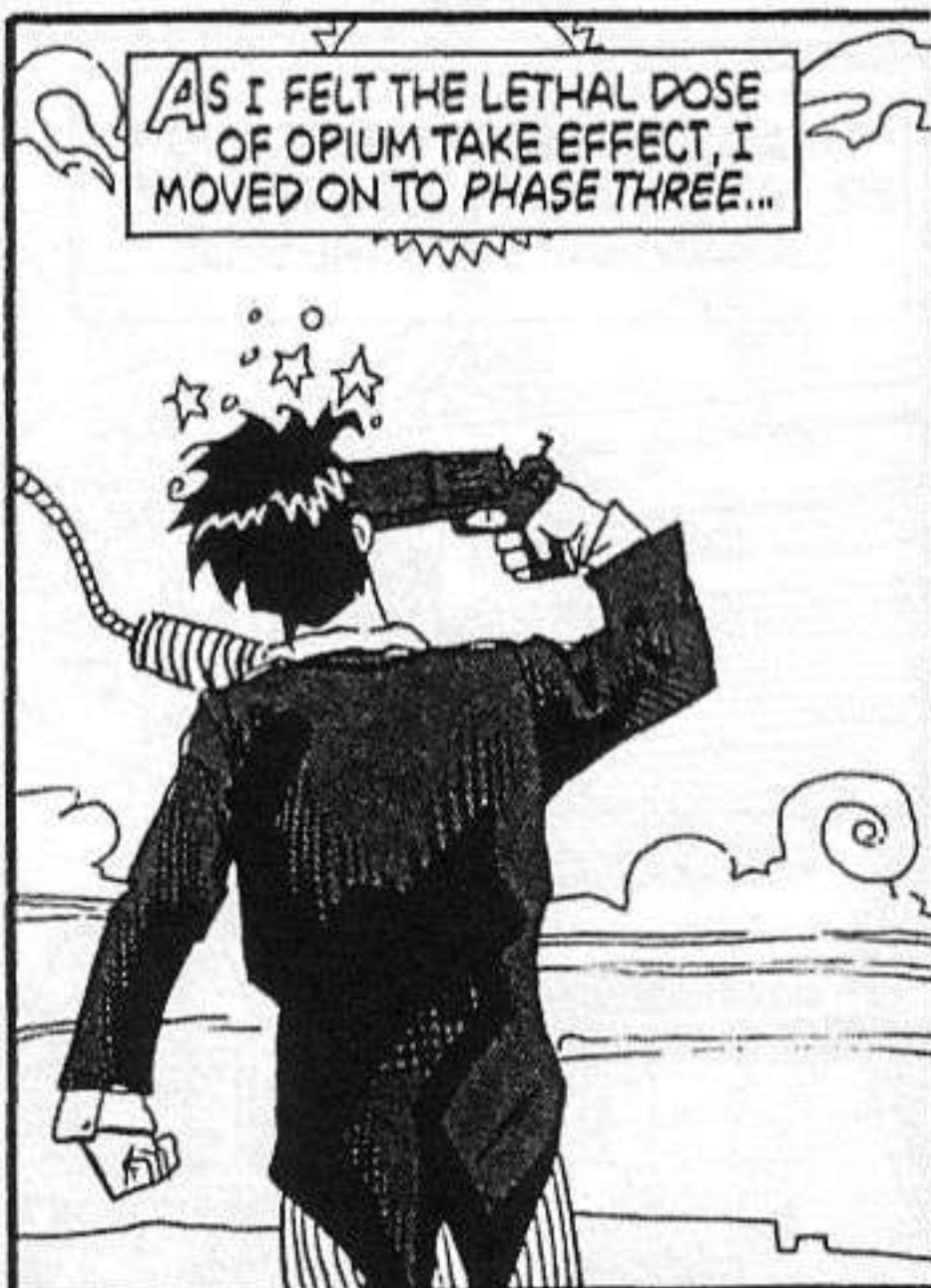




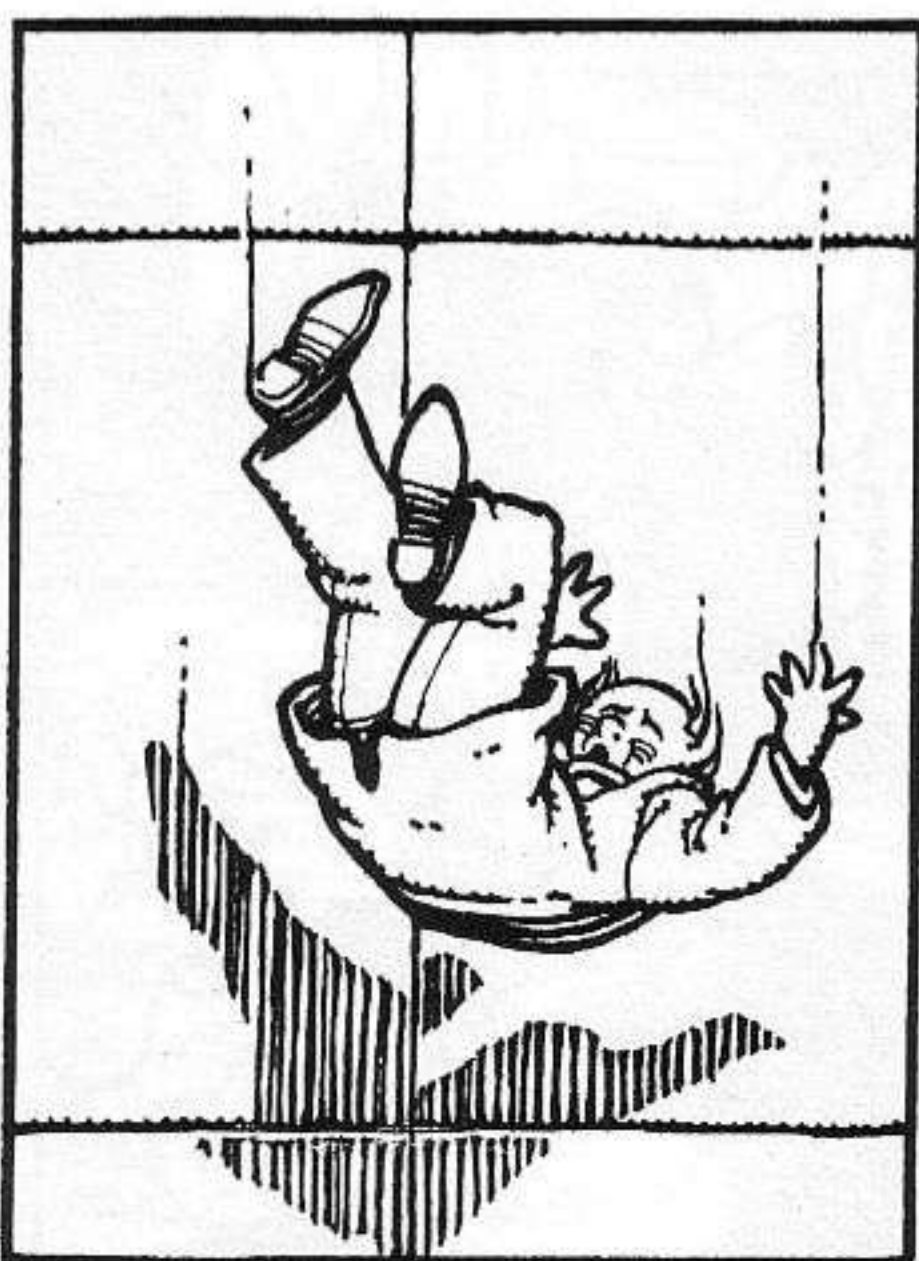
DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THE FENDER BENDER ACROSS TOWN?



the FAILED SUICIDE



ANOTHER FAILED SUICIDE



THE accidental GERBIL

OH, SURE, BLAME THE POOR LITTLE GERBIL! THAT IS SO TYPICAL OF HUMAN BEINGS! FIRST, YOU LOCK US IN A CAGE, PRESENT US WITH A REAL--

--UHN!
OOG!--

--CHALLENGE, AND THEN YOU CURSE US WHEN WE ESCAPE! WELL, ESCAPING'S OUR ART FORM, SO GET USED TO IT!

IT'S LIKE THE TIME I WAS IN A CAR WITH THIS LADY IN 'FRISCO...

"I WAS OUT OF THE CAGE BEFORE SHE EVEN MADE IT ACROSS THE GOLDEN GATE!"

EEEEEEEEEEK!

"I WENT STRAIGHT FOR HER BLOUSE BECAUSE I'D HEARD THAT BRASSIERE HOOKS WERE ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO CRACK!"

AlIEEEEEEE!!

"I WAS WORKING ON THE STRAP WHEN I HEARD ANOTHER CAR SCREECH TO A HALT NEARBY..."

I'LL HELP YOU, MA'AM!

"HE MUST'A THOUGHT SHE WAS HAVING AN EPILEPTIC SEIZURE, 'CAUSE A SECOND LATER HE WAS TRYIN' TO SAVE HER LIFE..."

JUST TRY TO RELAX! BITE DOWN ON THIS!

"THAT'S WHEN THINGS REALLY GOT CRAZY..."

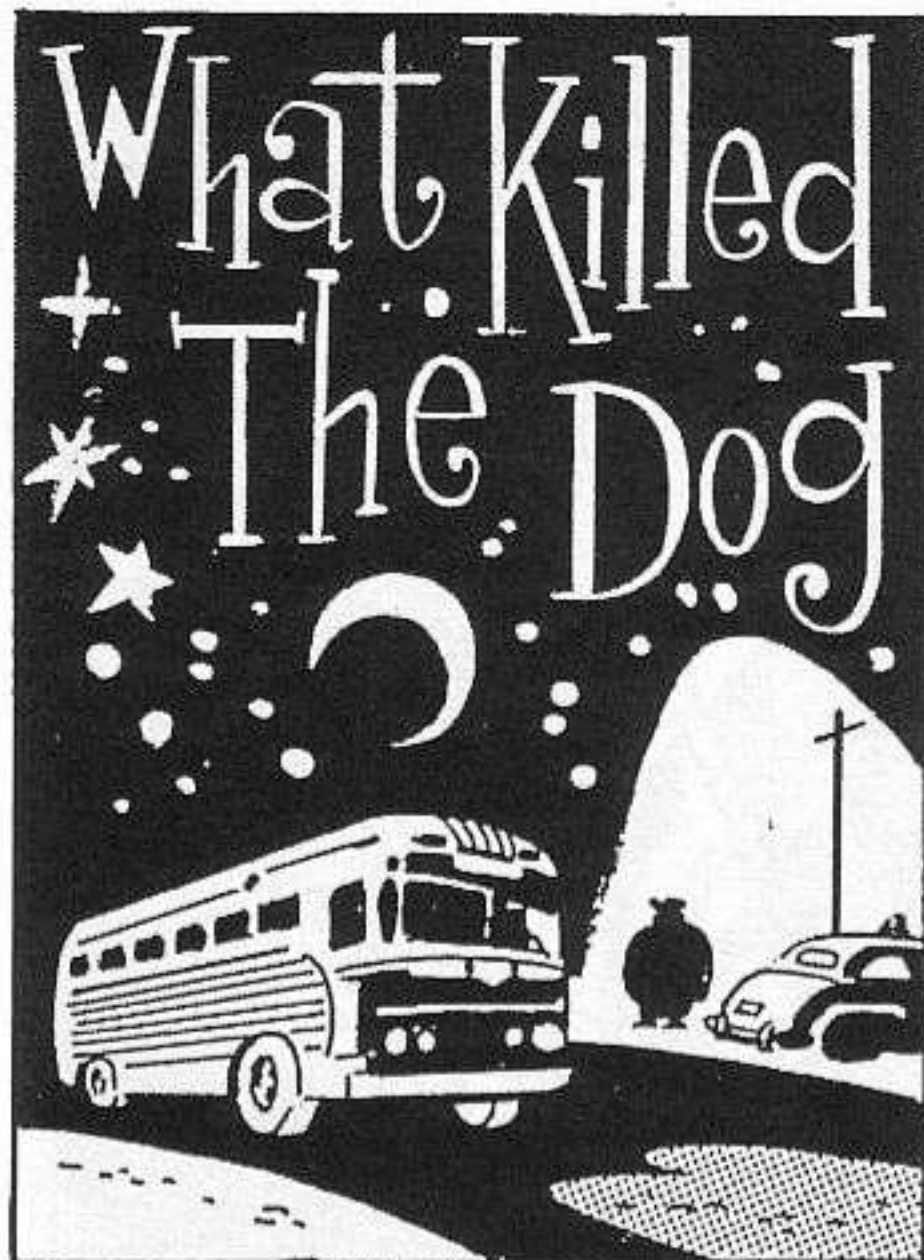
TAKE YOUR HANDS OFF THAT WOMAN, YOU CAD!

TAKE THAT!

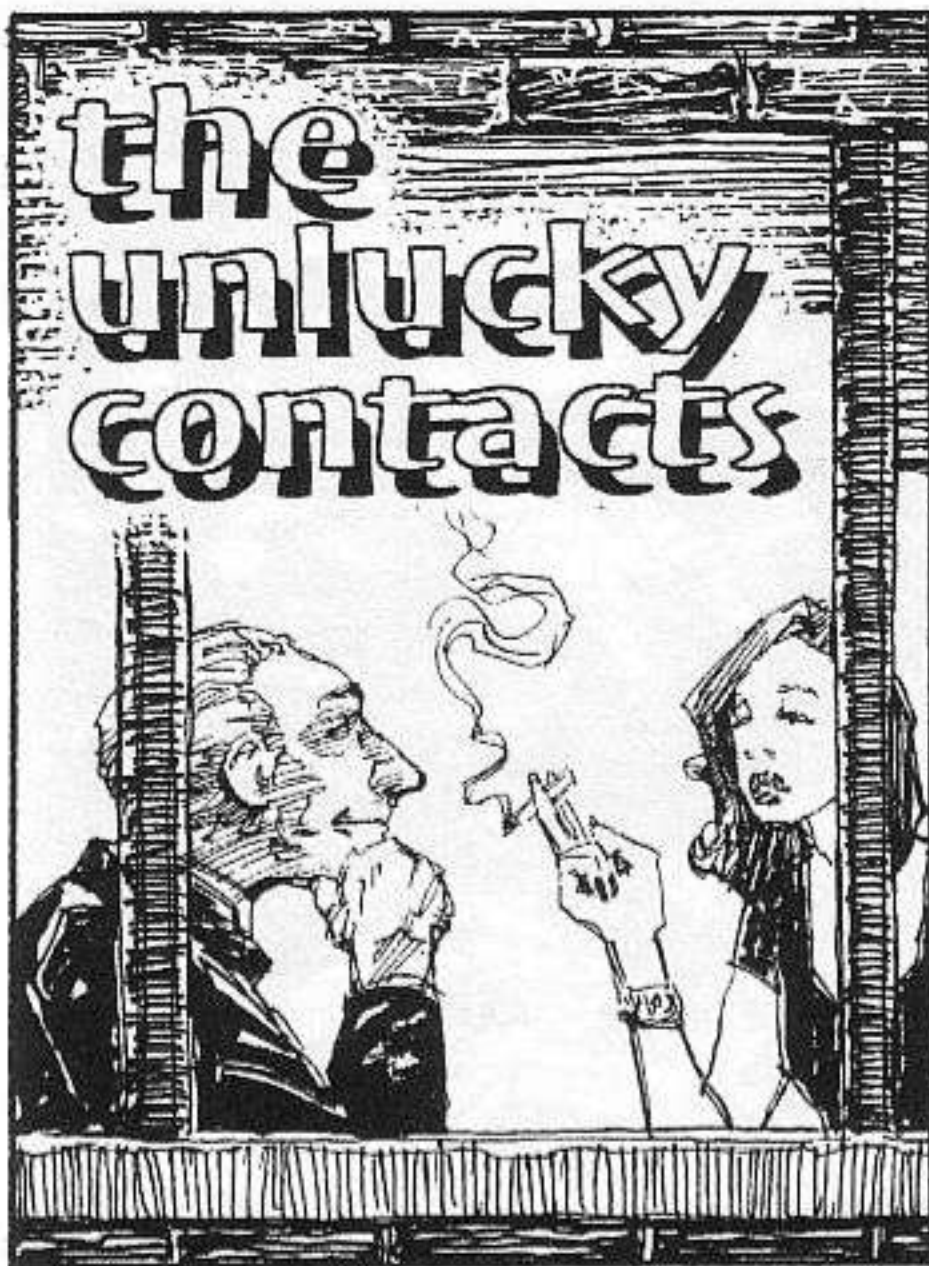
CRACK!

IT'S NO WONDER US CRITTERS ARE ALWAYS TRYIN' TO GET AWAY FROM YOU...

...YOU GUYS ARE NUTS!







The SKI ACCIDENT

"IT ALL STARTED INNOCENTLY ENOUGH, AT A WINE-TASTING PARTY HELD AT THE TOP OF A MOUNTAIN."



"SOON MOTHER NATURE CALLED, AND SINCE THERE WAS NO RESTROOM IN THE VICINITY, I PUT ON MY SKIS AND HEADED FOR THE NEXT BEST THING."



"EVERYTHING WAS GOING NICELY, WHEN I FELT MYSELF SLIPPING BACKWARDS..."

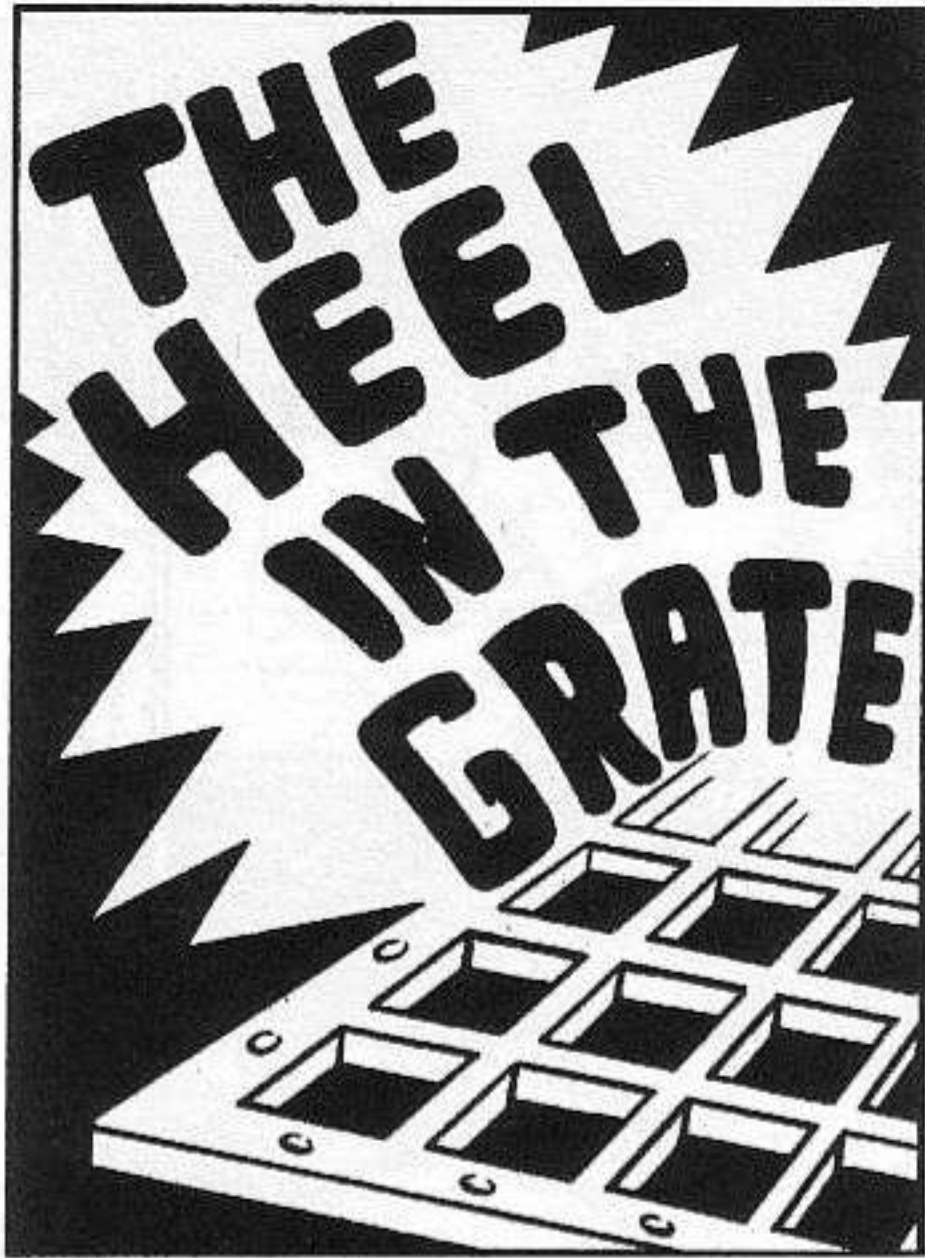


"...DOWN THE MOUNTAIN!"



"IN HOPES OF BREAKING THE MOMENTUM OF MY DESCENT, I EXTENDED MY ARMS TO EACH SIDE..."



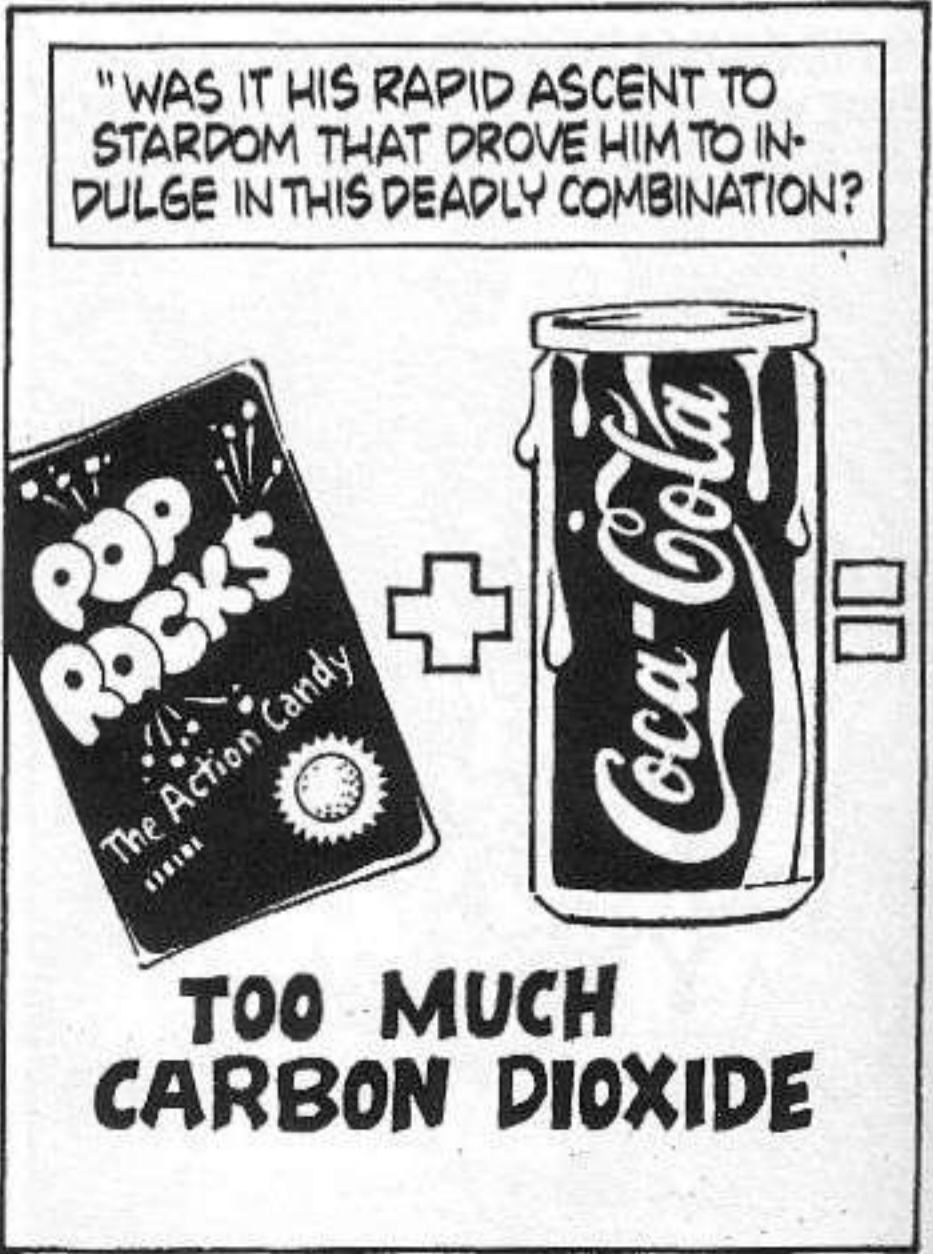
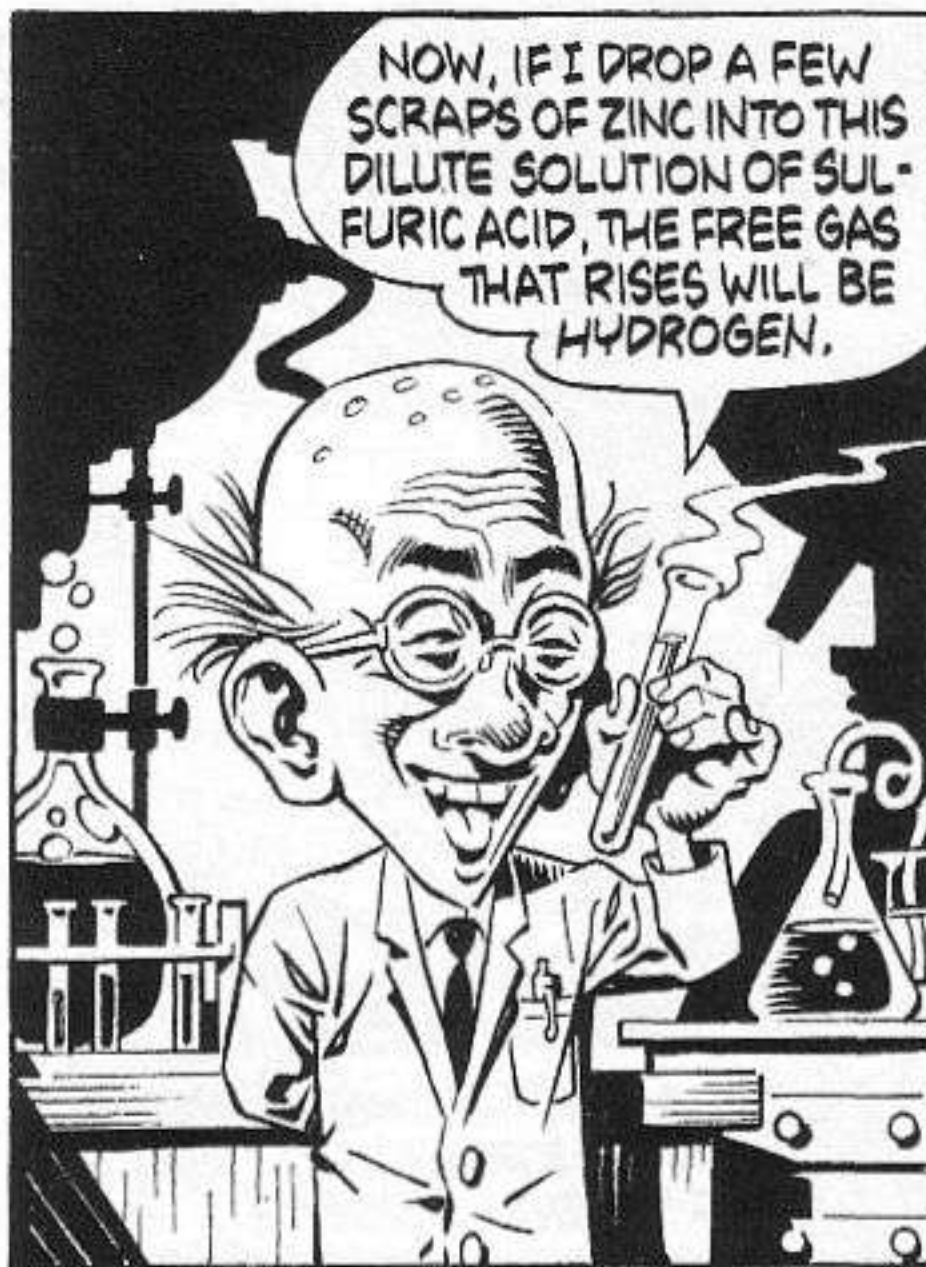




THE SAWED-OFF FINGERS



the Wonder of GAS



"WHO KNOWS? BUT IN THE END, LIKE ALL SUBSTANCE ABUSERS, HE PAID THE ULTIMATE PRICE."



LESSON? TAKE CARE OF YOUR GAS OR IT WILL TAKE CARE OF YOU.



"SEAGULLS SUFFER A SIMILAR FATE WHEN FED ALKA-SELTZER TABLETS."



"SPEAKING OF EXPLODING BIRDS, THE HUMANE THING TO THROW AT WEDDINGS ..."



"...IS BIRDSEED. IT SEEMS THAT CHURCH-YARD BIRDIES WERE GORGING ON RICE, WHICH THEN EXPANDED BEFORE THEY COULD PROPERLY DIGEST IT."



WHICH REMINDS ME OF A LITTLE EXPERIMENT SOME HAVE PERFORMED WITH INTESTINAL GAS!



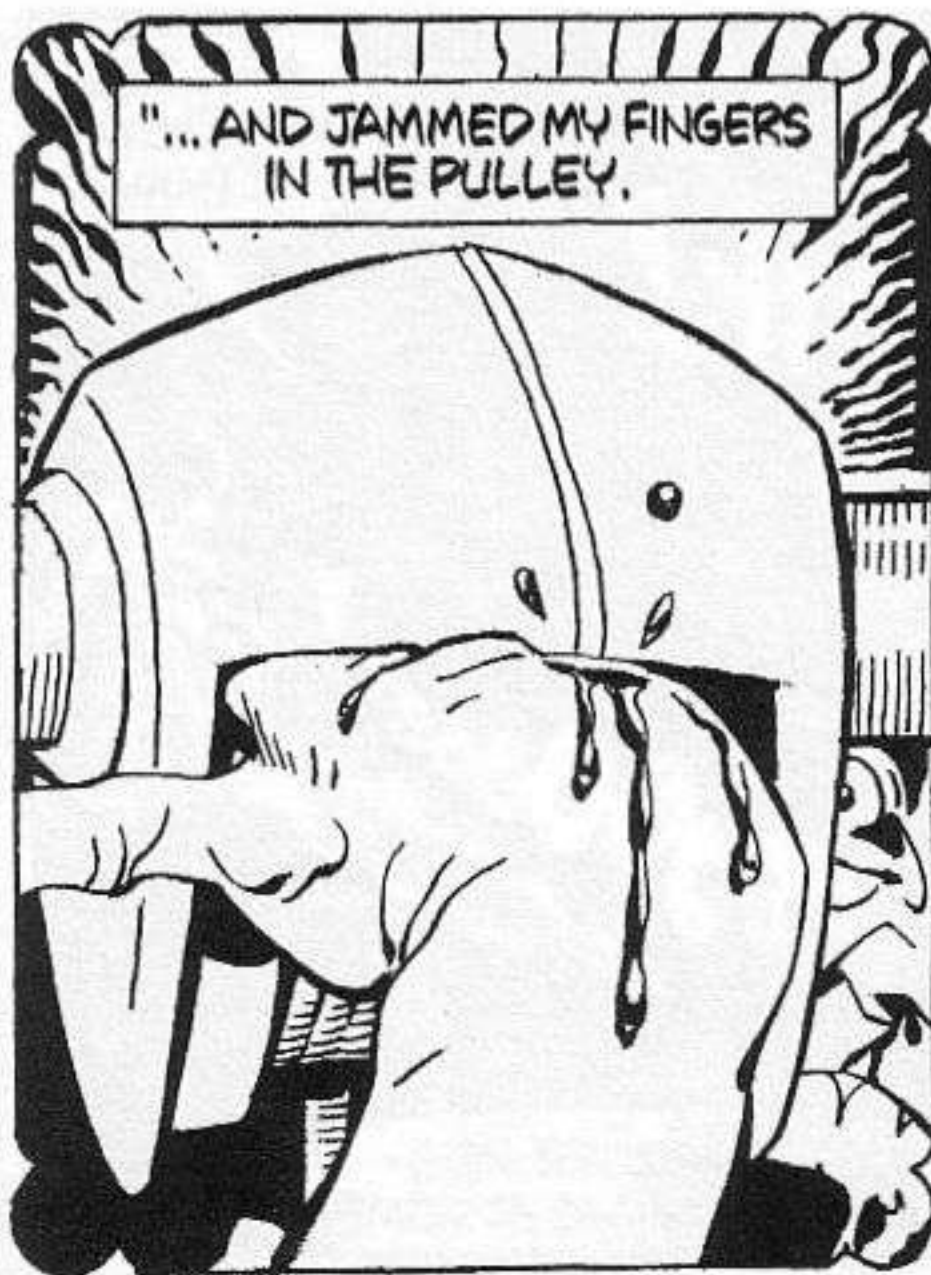
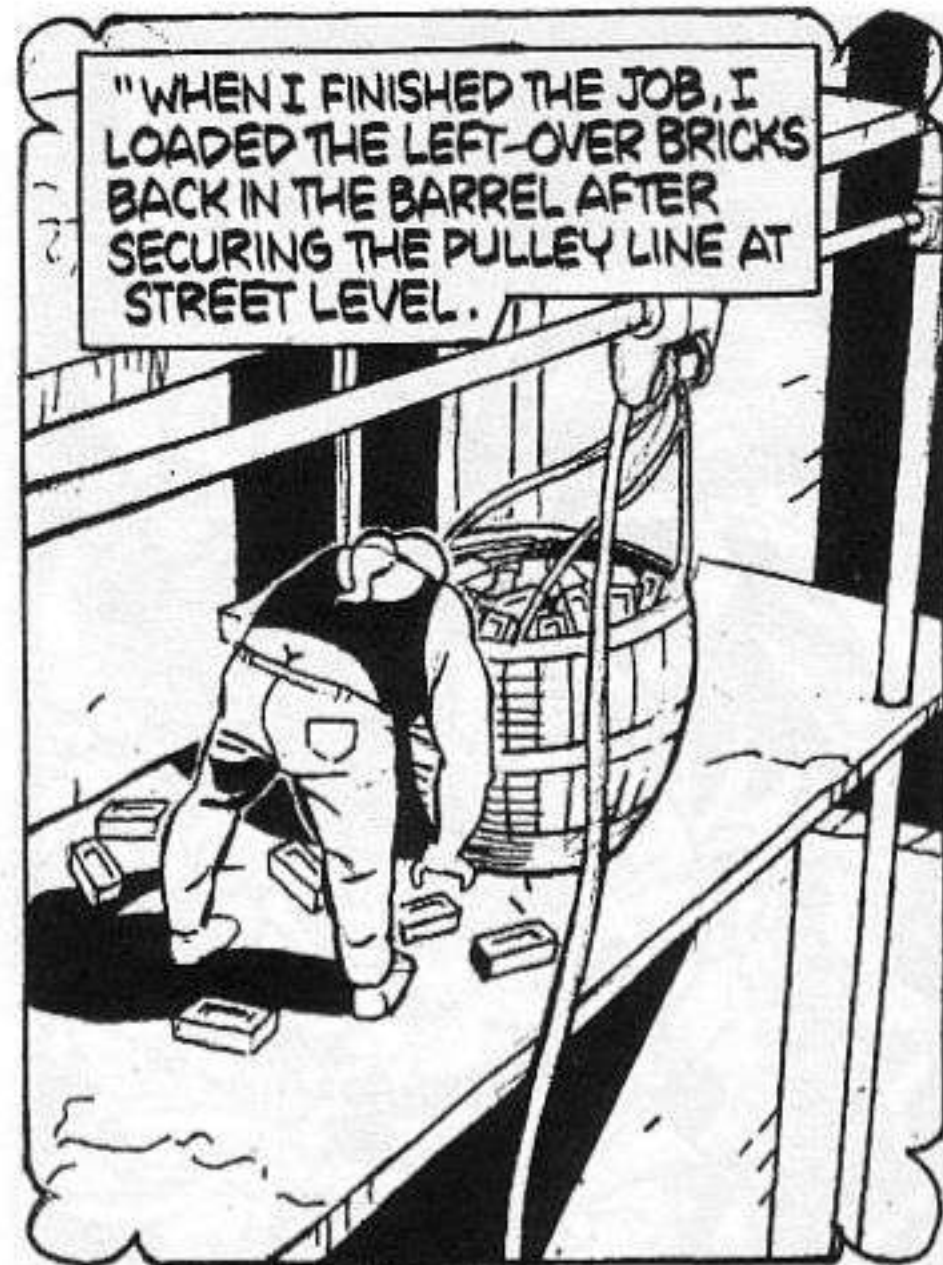
AH ... THE MIRACLE OF METHANE!

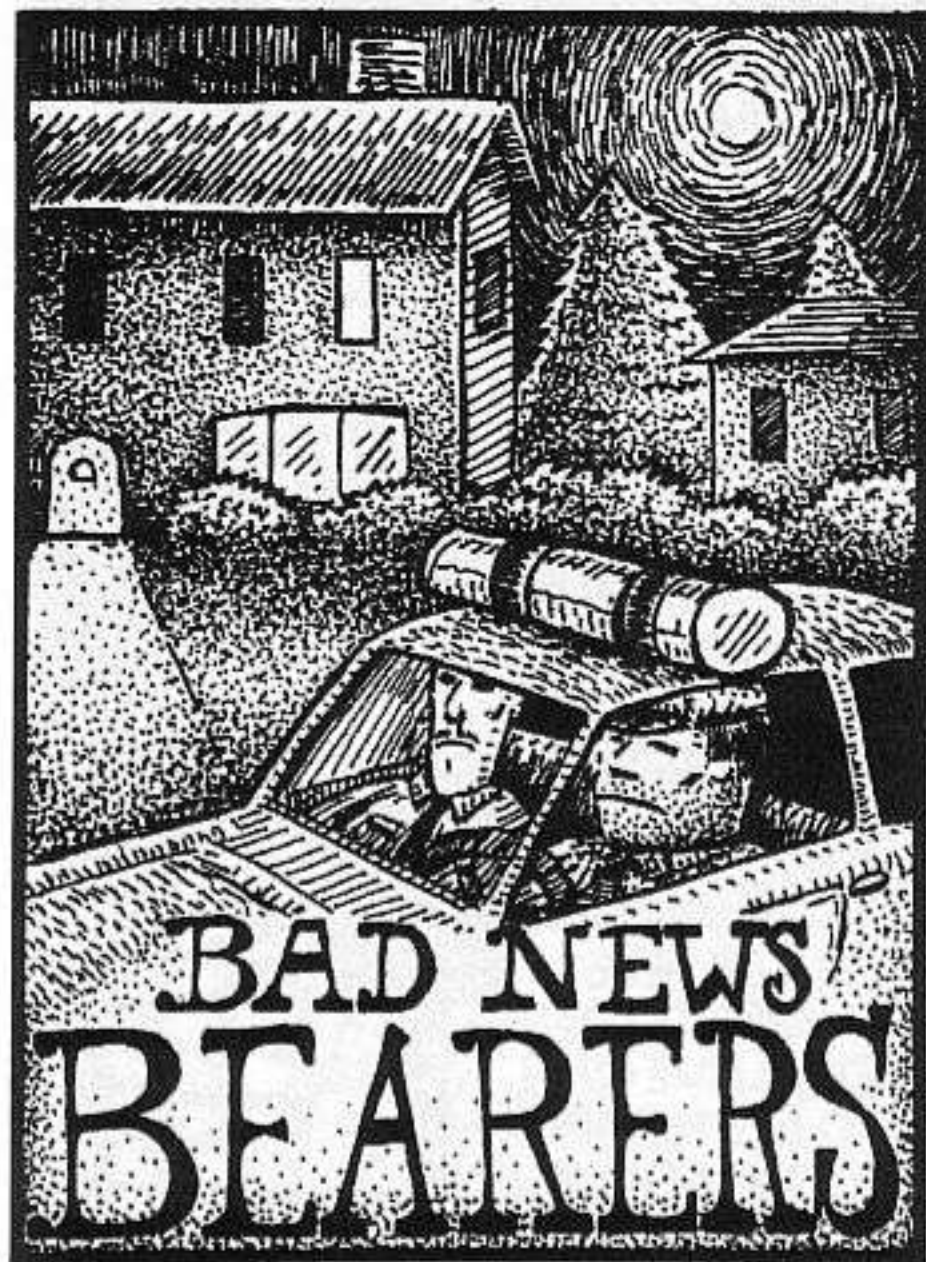


JUST REMEMBER, KIDS - DON'T TRY THIS AT HOME!



BARREL & BRICKS





I'M TELLIN' YA, SID, THESE CALLS ARE THE WORST. I'LL NEVER GET USED TO NOTIFYIN' A LADY THAT HER HUSBAND IS DEAD.

YEAH, LET'S JUST GET IT OVER WITH.



DING DONG

I'M COMING! I'M COMING! WHAT'S YOUR RUSH?

DAA DAA!



WHAT'S THE HOLDUP?

MAYBE SHE'S NOT HOME.

DING DONG DING

AT TWO IN THE MORNING?



DONG DING DONG

OKAY, OKAY! I--

EEEEAAAAH!



DING DONG DING



HEY--DID YOU HEAR SOMEONE SCREAM?

YEAH--LET'S BUST THE DOOR!



BROKEN NECK-- SHE'S DEAD!

WHERE'S THIS WATER COMING FROM?

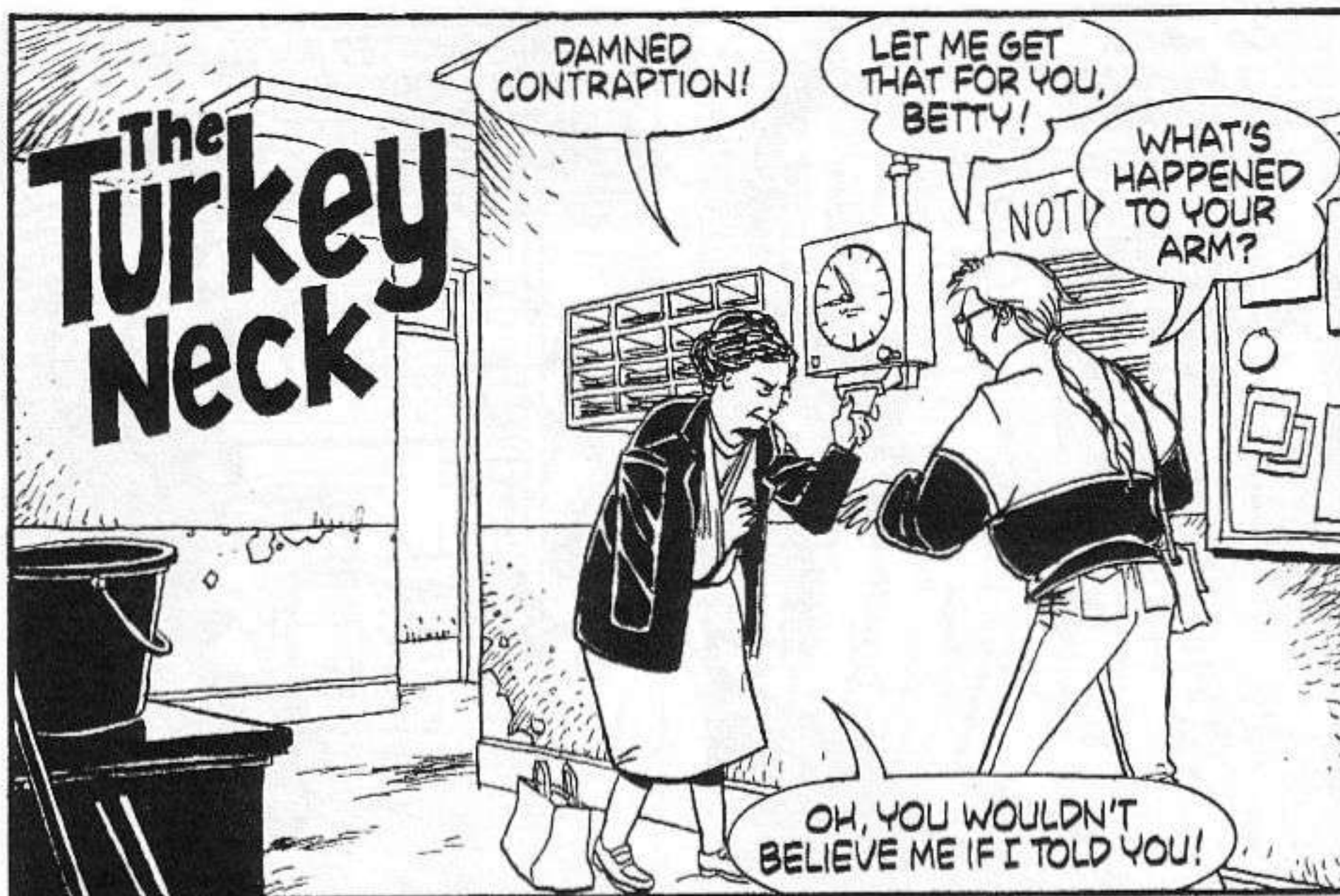


THAT'S RIGHT, THE BABY DROWNED. THEY'RE ALL DEAD NOW. SEND THE MEATWAGON OVER, WILL YA?

HEY, SID, THEY AIN'T GONNA BE EATIN' THESE--YOU WANT ONE?







"IT ALL BEGAN WHEN MY EDDIE DRANK HIMSELF INTO HIS USUAL SATURDAY NIGHT STUPOR AND COLLAPSED ON MY KITCHEN FLOOR.



"THE BOYS WEREN'T HOME YET, SO I TRIED TO GET THE BIG LUMMOX UP TO BED ON MY OWN."



"I WENT UP TO BED AND LEFT EDDIE THERE ON THE FLOOR. AND THAT'S JUST WHERE HE WAS WHEN THOSE TWO DEVILS WE CALL SONS CAME HOME AND FOUND HIM!"



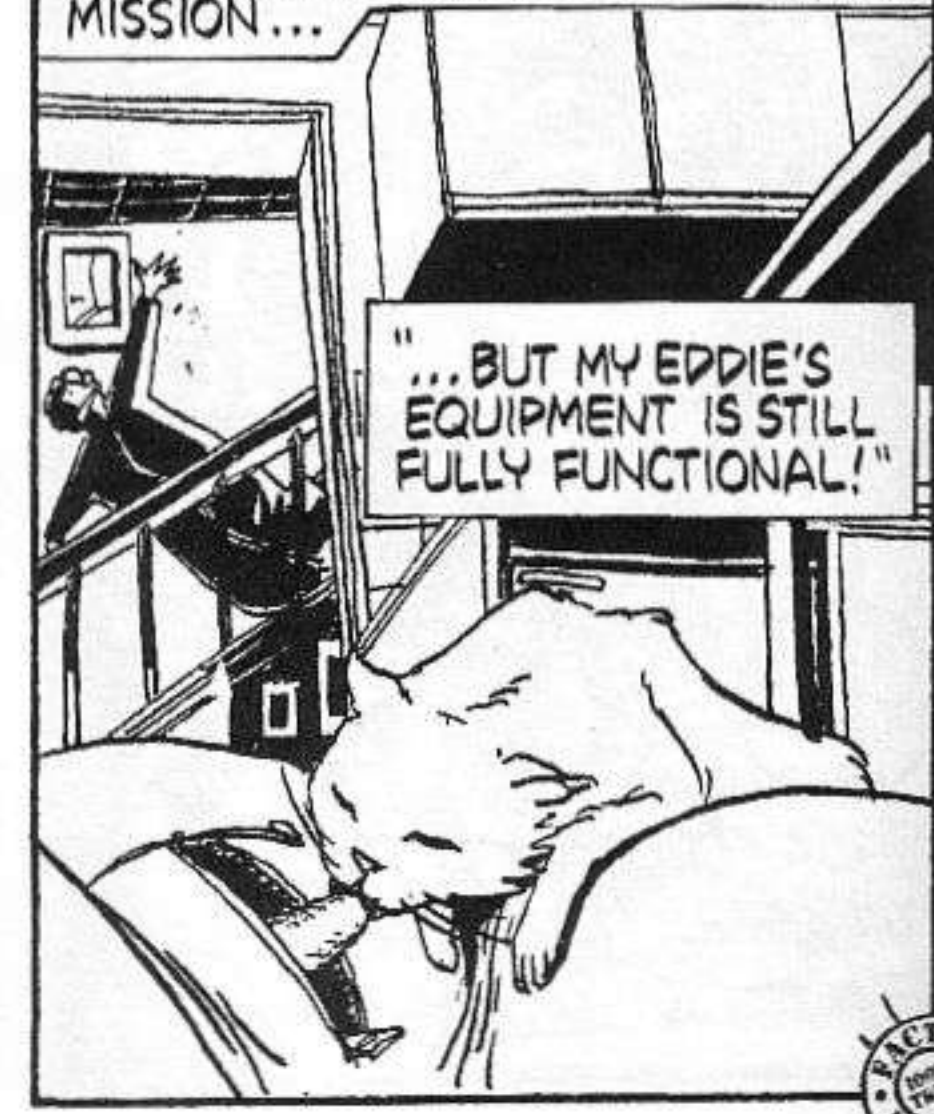
"I SWEAR, THEY DEVOTE THEMSELVES TO FINDING NEW WAYS OF TORTURING US!"



"EARLY THE NEXT MORNING I WAS COMING DOWN TO CHECK ON HIS HIGHNESS WHEN I GOT THE FRIGHT OF MY LIFE."



"TO MAKE A LONG STORY SHORT, MY ARM IS TEMPORARILY OUT OF COMMISSION..."

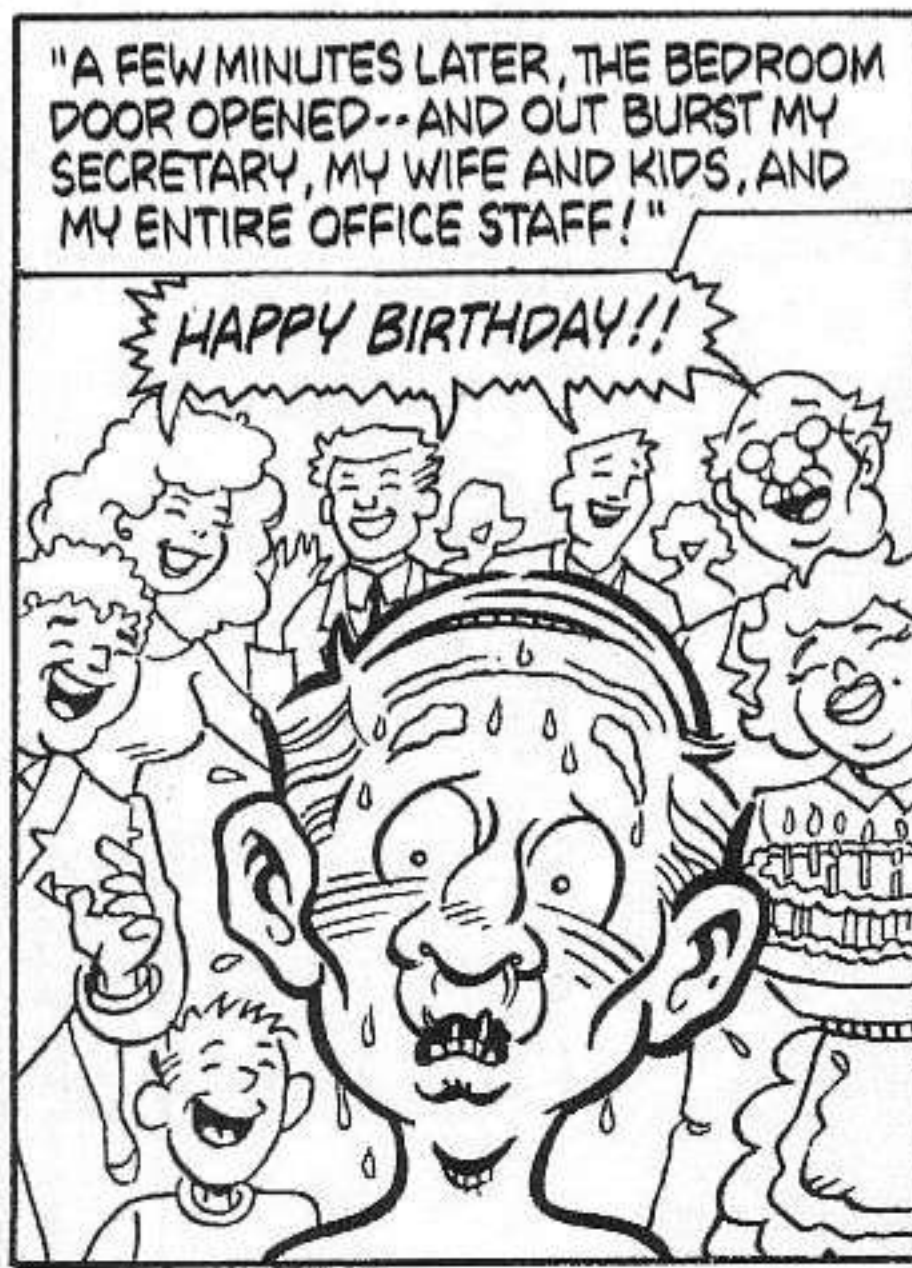


CHAPTER FIVE

CAUGHT IN THE ACT

SEX AND SCANDAL LEGENDS

In her May 1, 1994 column, Ann Landers published a letter from a reader in Van Nuys, California, who claimed that “The Blind Date” (*page 121*) incident had really happened to him. When I wrote to Ann and explained how old and widespread — not to mention *outdated* — the story is, she replied that dozens of readers had told her the same thing, and she signed herself “Red-Faced in Chicago.” She ought to be embarrassed, since her column reprints “The Nude Housewife” (*page 139*) as a true tale about once a year. But who can blame her? These are great stories of sex and scandal, as long as they happen to a FOAF and not to ourselves.



Another NUDE SURPRISE PARTY

WHY, LYDIA, THAT LOOKS LIKE A NAKED WOMAN ON YOUR SQUARE OF THE QUILT!

DO YOU HAVE A PROBLEM WITH THAT, DORIS?

NO... I GUESS NOT. BUT I WOULD LIKE TO KNOW WHO IT'S MEANT TO REPRESENT!

WELL, I'VE ONLY BEEN WAITING THE WHOLE DAY FOR ONE OF YOU TO ASK ME! THERE'S A STORY CONNECTED WITH THIS SQUARE!

I HEARD IT FROM MY MOTHER, WHO GOT IT FROM HER SISTER IN ABILENE, WHOSE MILKMAN KNEW THE PEOPLE INVOLVED.

"THEY WERE A BAPTIST COUPLE WHO WERE REAL IMPORTANT PEOPLE IN THE CHURCH."

"IT WAS THE WOMAN'S BIRTHDAY AND HER HUSBAND HAD PLANNED A BIG SURPRISE PARTY FOR HER."

"WHILE SHE WAS UPSTAIRS TAKING HER SHOWER THAT NIGHT, THE MINISTER AND THE REST OF THE CHURCH PEOPLE WERE LED IN BY THE HUSBAND..."

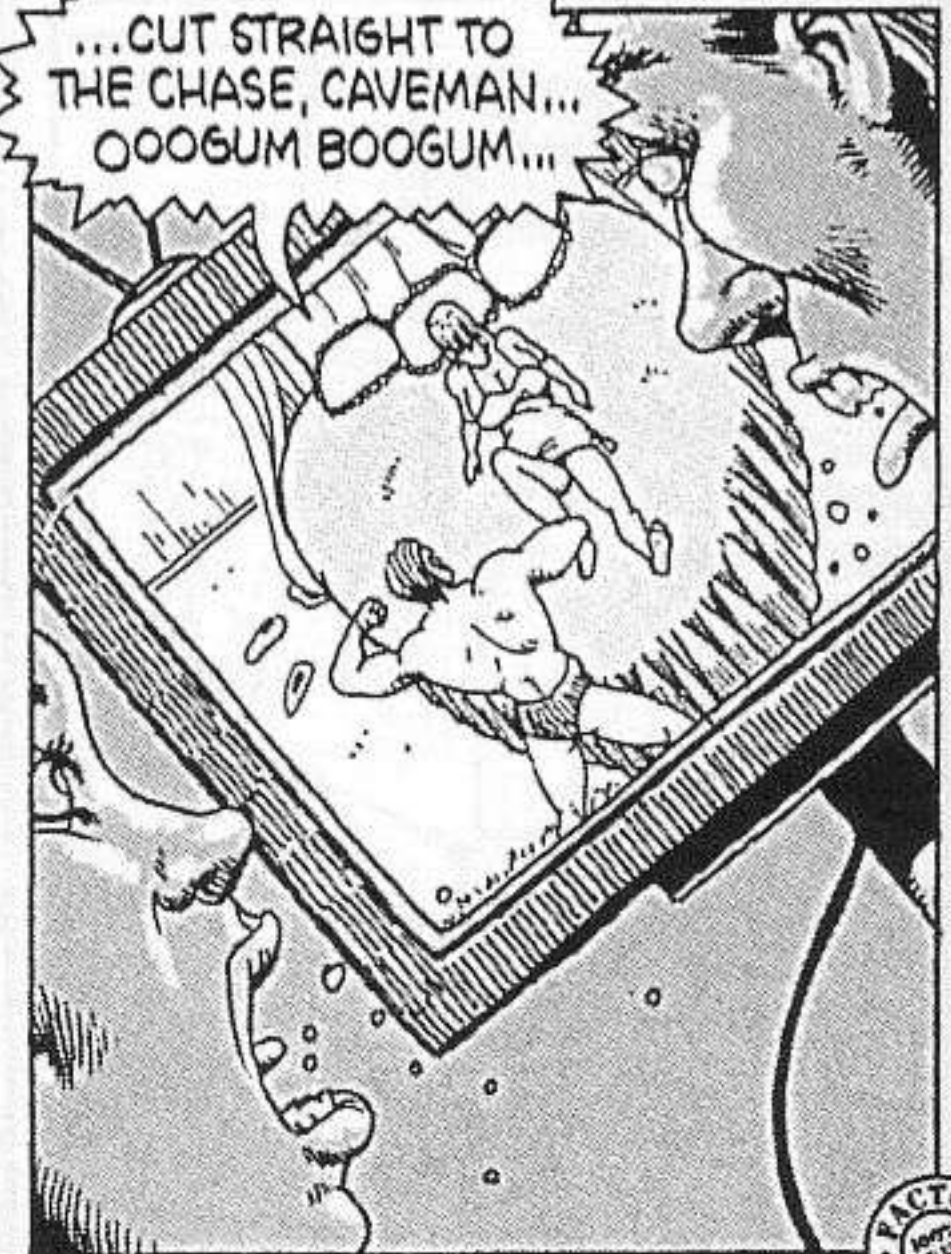
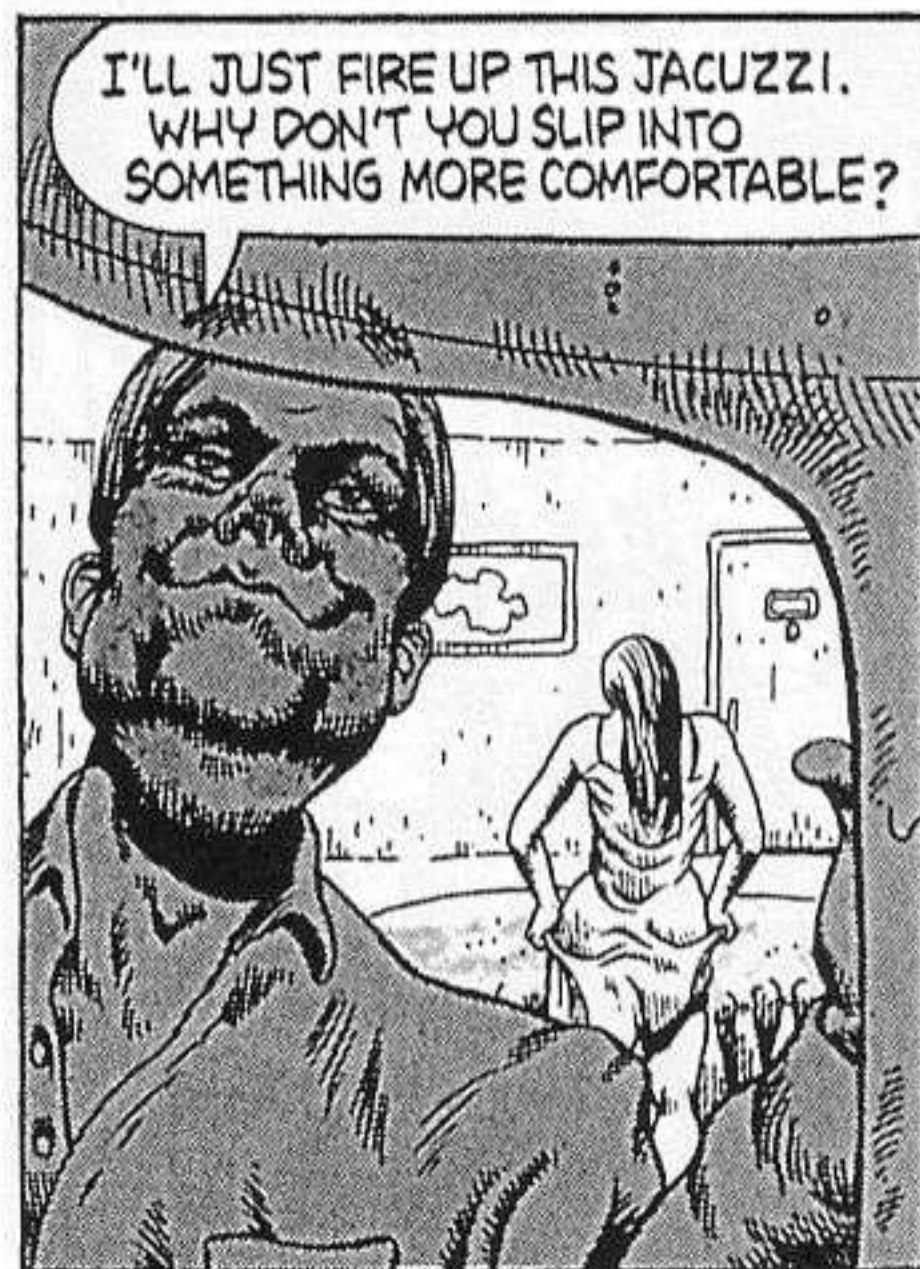
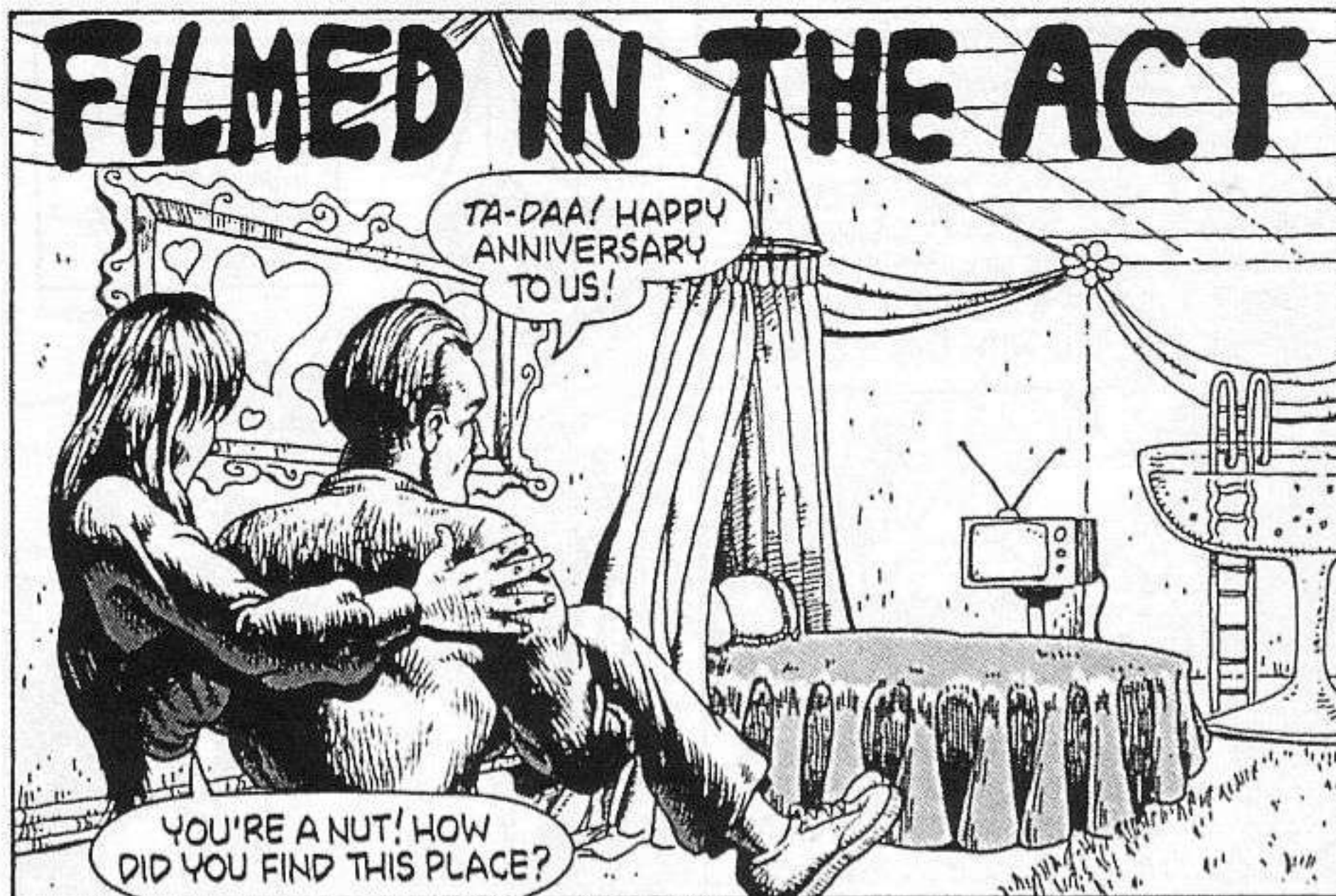
"... AND HIDDEN AROUND THE LIVING ROOM."

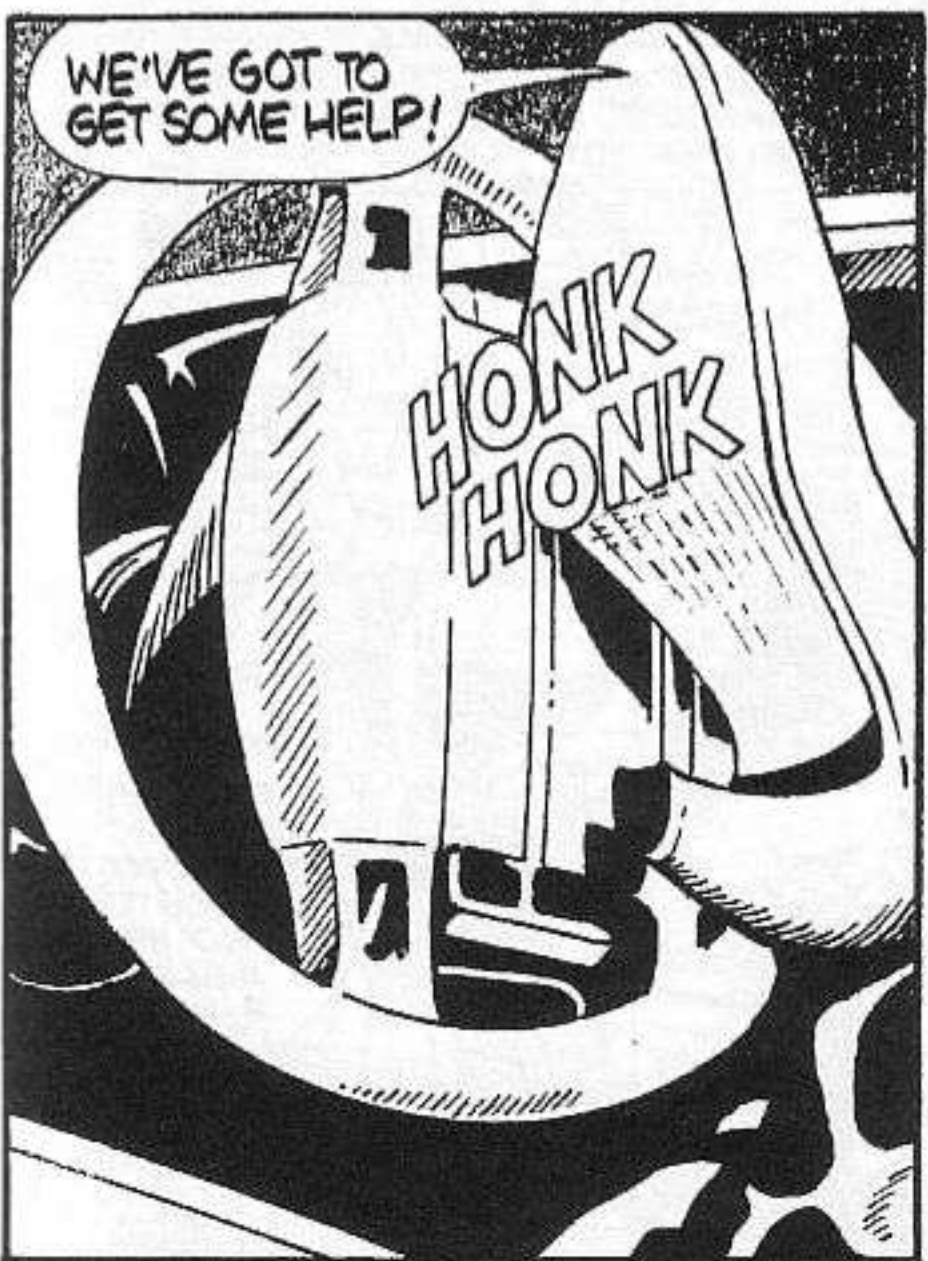
"HIS WIFE, UPON FINISHING HER SHOWER, CAME DOWNSTAIRS SUSPECTING NOTHING."

"SO WHAT HAPPENED NEXT REALLY CAME AS A COMPLETE SURPRISE!"

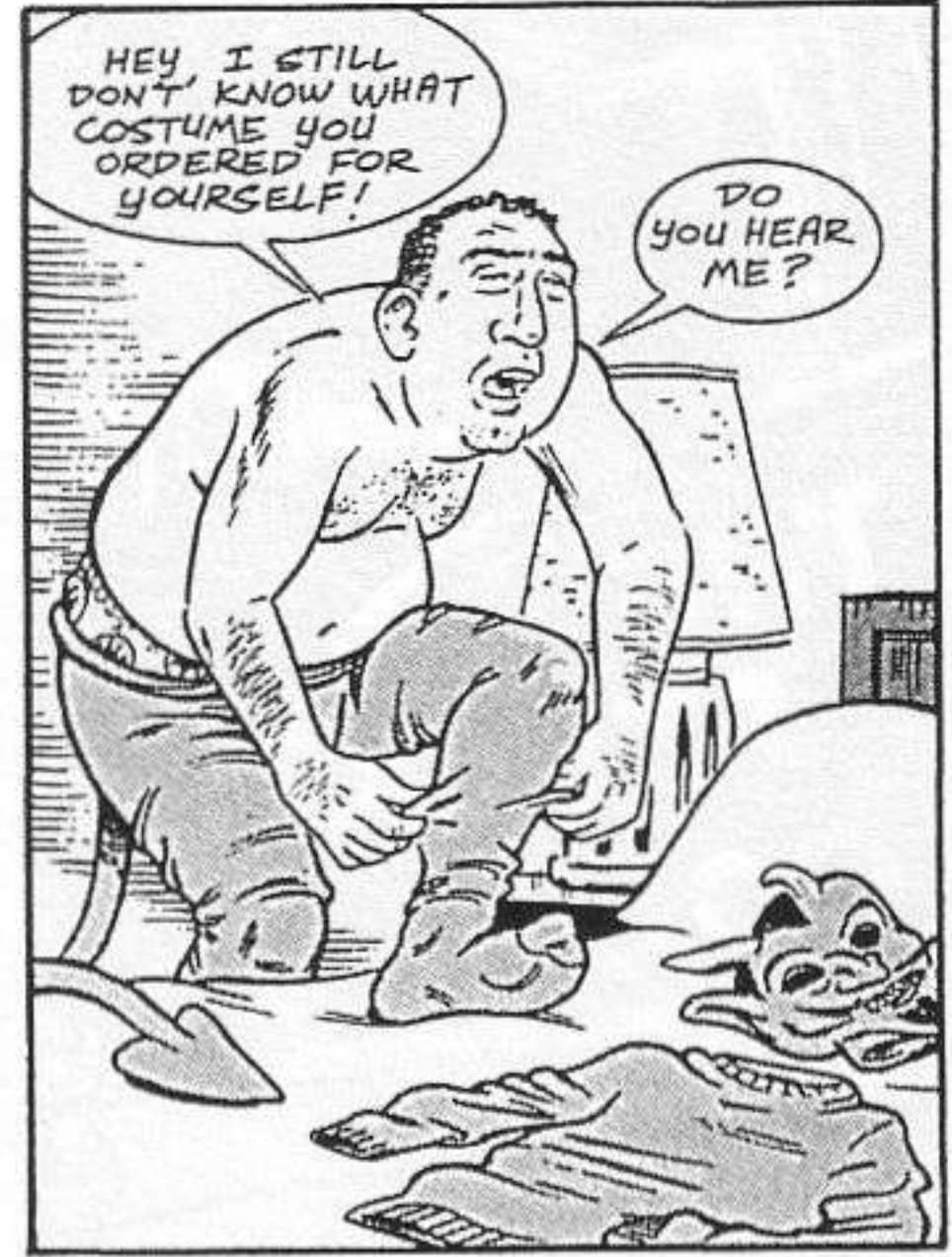
FRANK?

COME AND GET IT WHILE IT'S CLEAN!



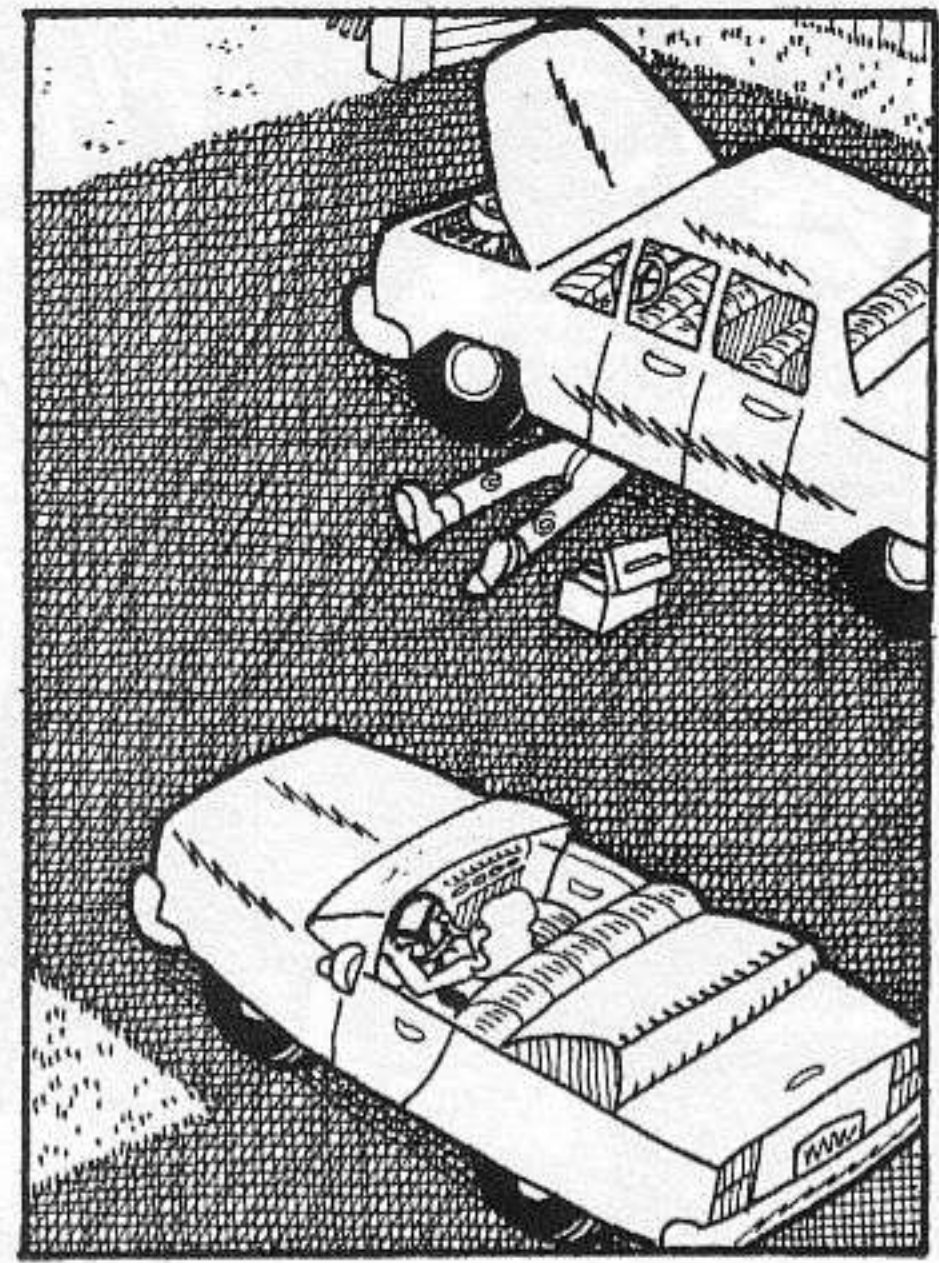


Sex with the WRONG PARTNER!

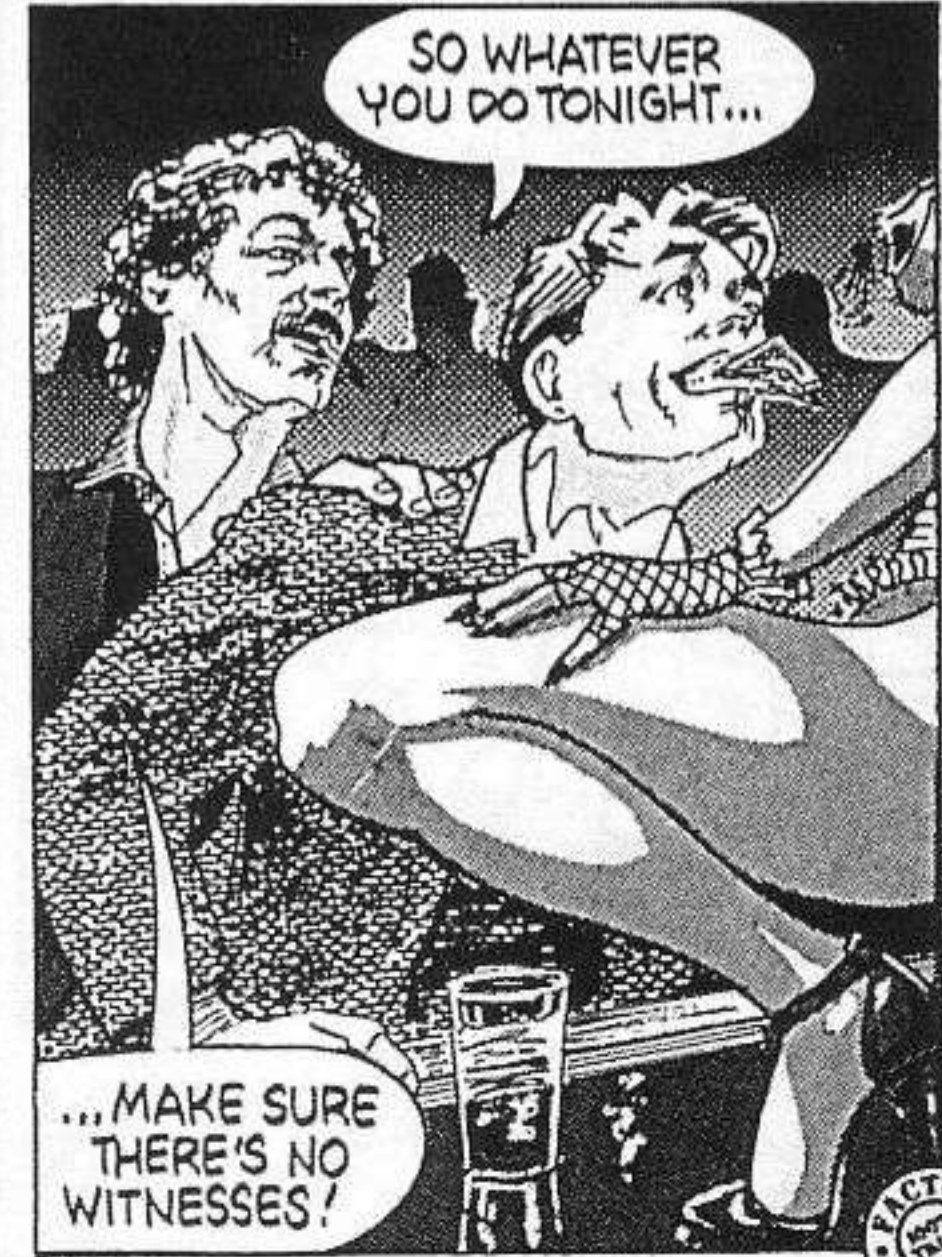
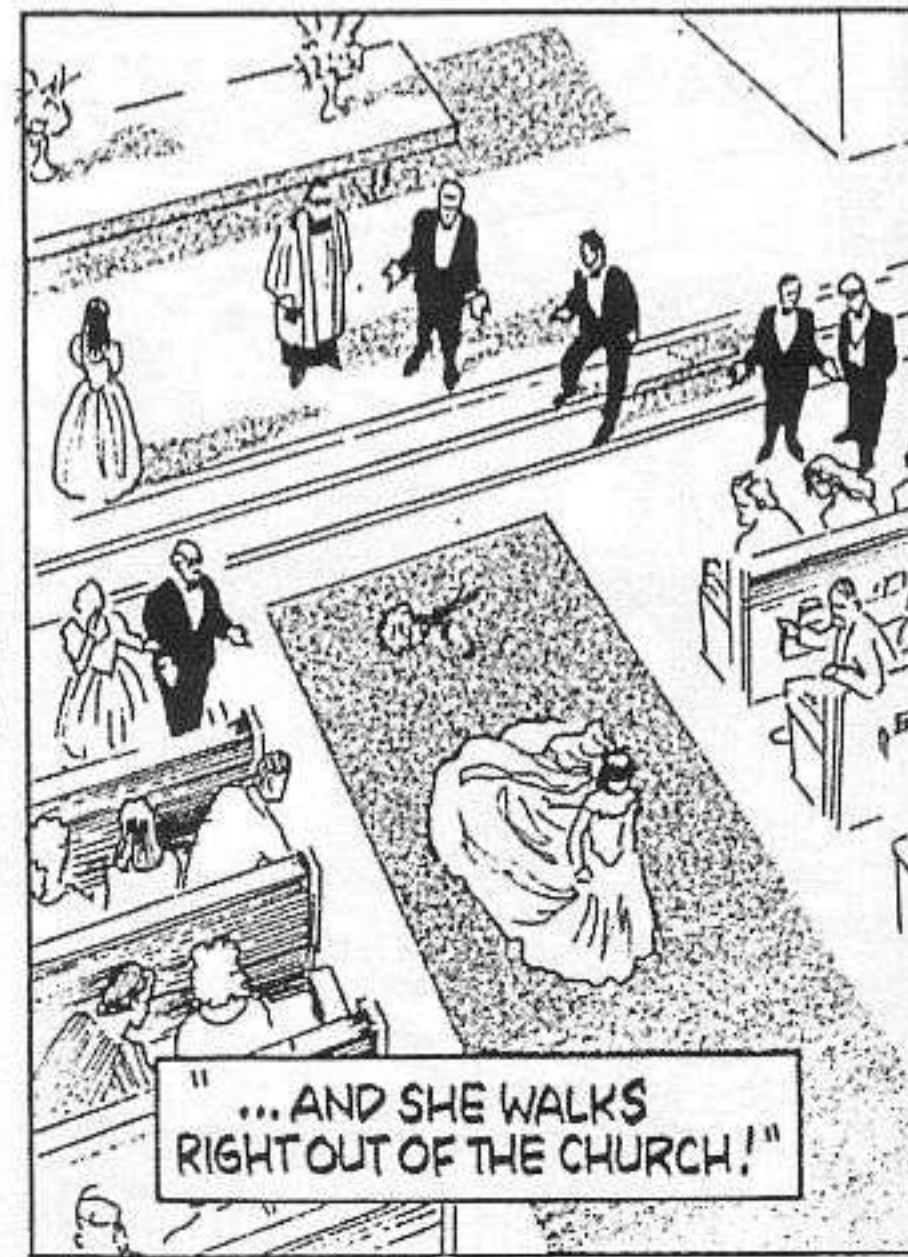
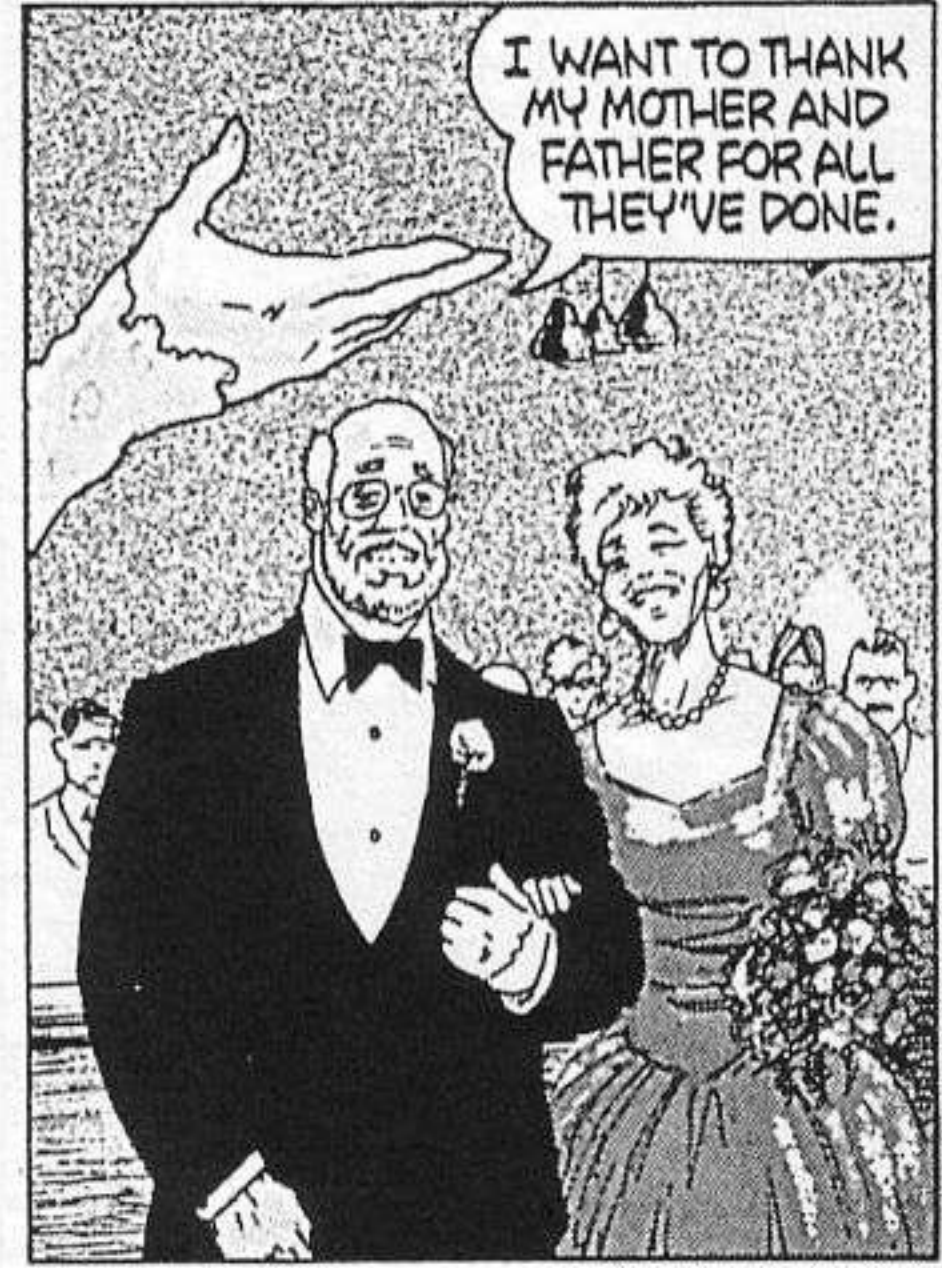








The Bothered Bride



The BAD Bachelorette

I WOULD NEVER WEAR THIS IN A MILLION YEARS!

TAKE IT ON THE HONEYMOON, ANYWAY-- YOU NEVER KNOW.

KNOCK KNOCK

HEY, GIRLS-- OUR SURPRISE GUEST HAS ARRIVED!

HI THERE!

GIVE HER A PRIVATE PERFORMANCE!

YEAH, LET'S LOCK THEM IN THE BEDROOM!

LATER...

I'D A THOUGHT SHE'D COME OUT SCREAMING BY NOW.

HE MUST BE SOME PERFORMER!

THE NEXT MORNING...

YOU MAY KISS THE BRIDE...

EIGHT MONTHS LATER...

HE'S KICKING!

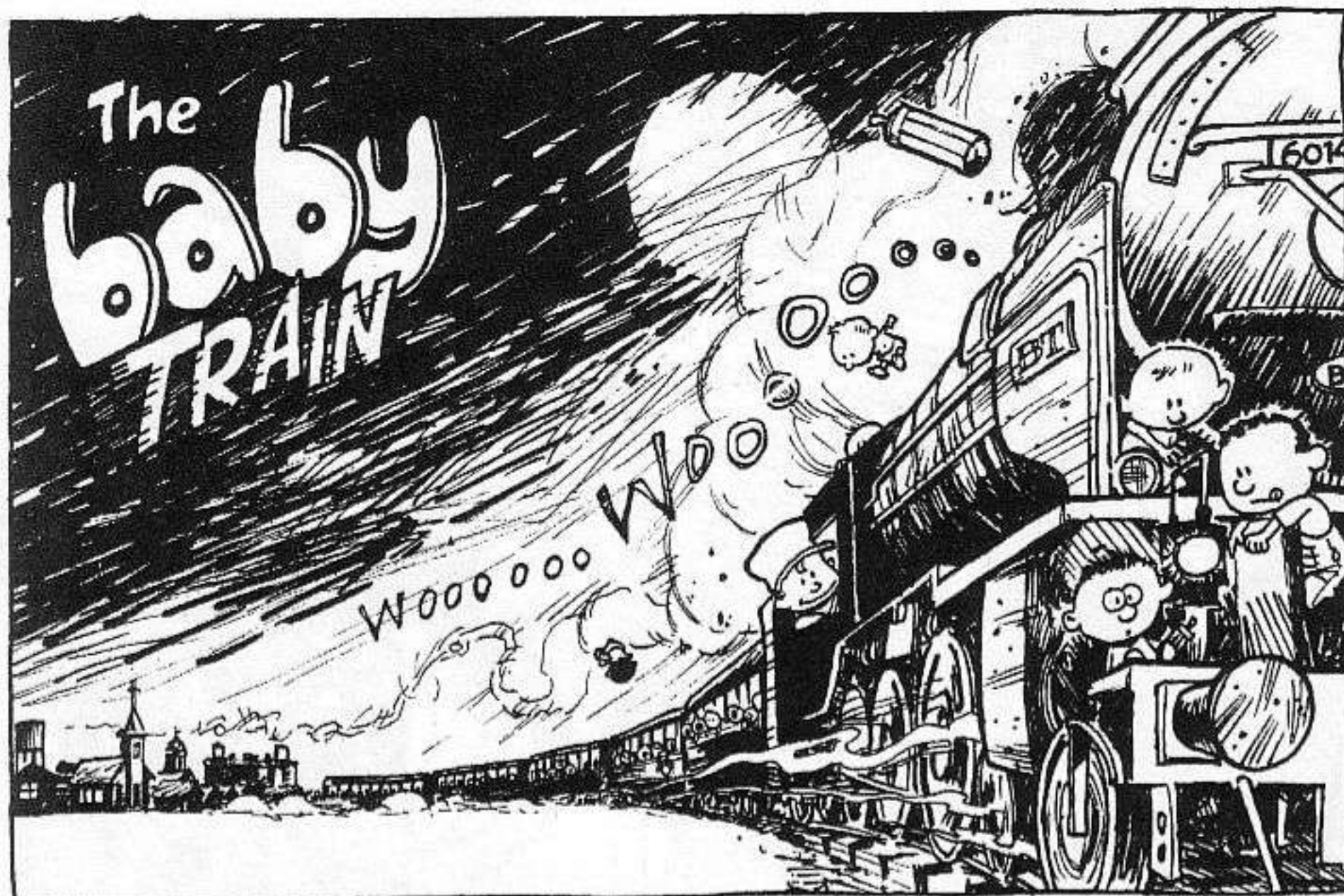
I CAN FEEL IT! HE'LL BE STRONG LIKE HIS DADDY!

I'M SO GLAD WE TOOK THOSE LAMAZE CLASSES. PUSH, PUSH!

I CAN'T WAIT TO ENGH- SEE HIM!

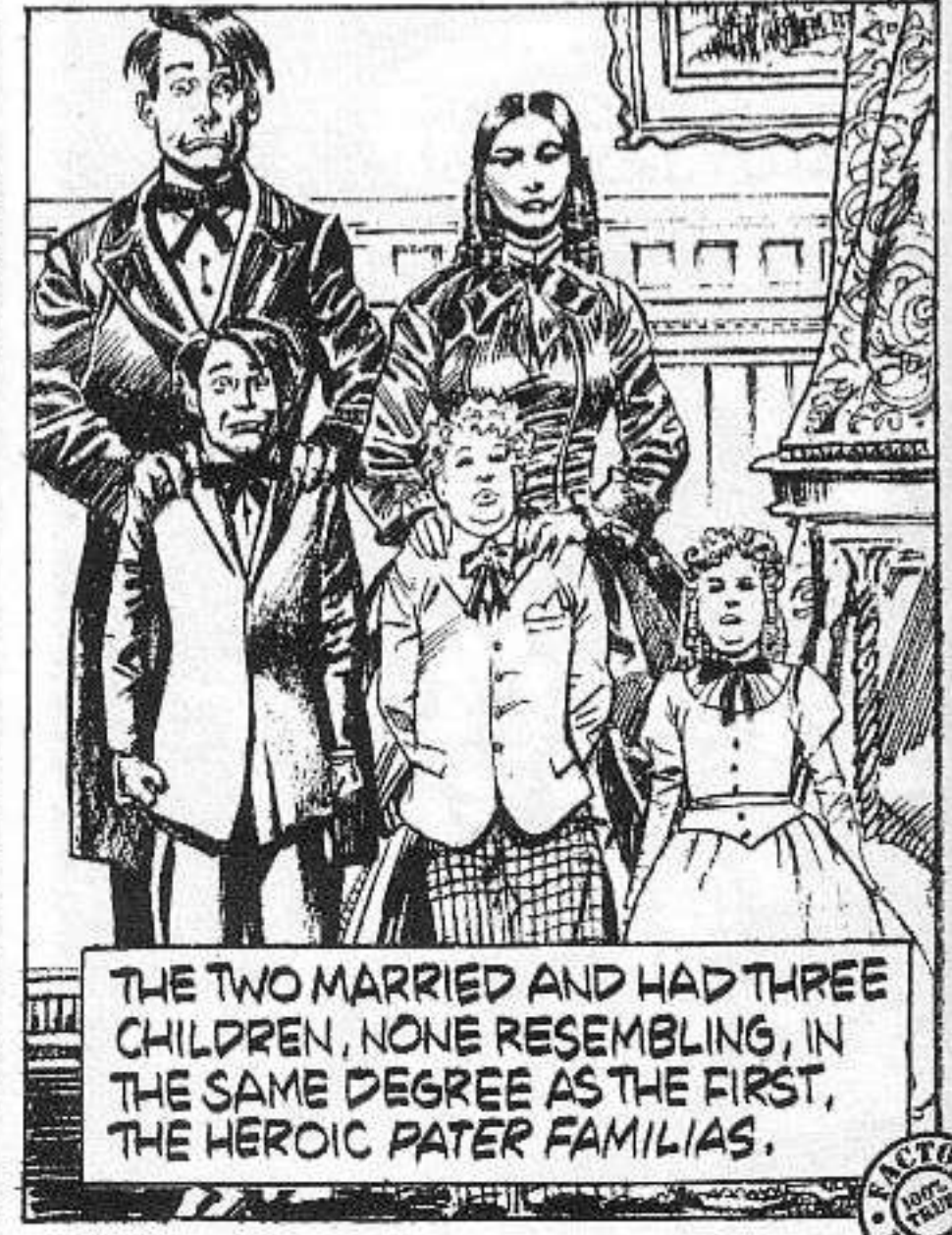
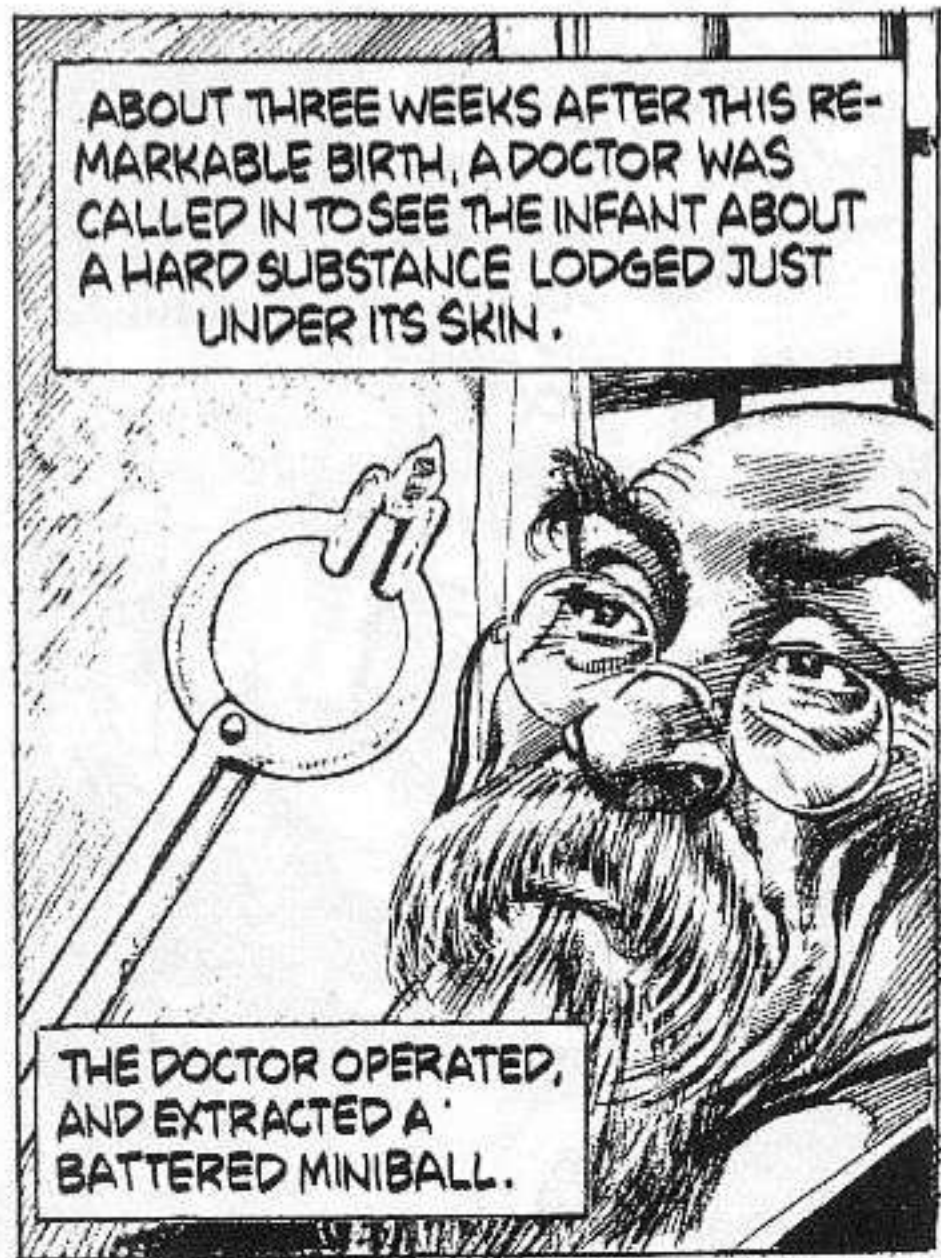
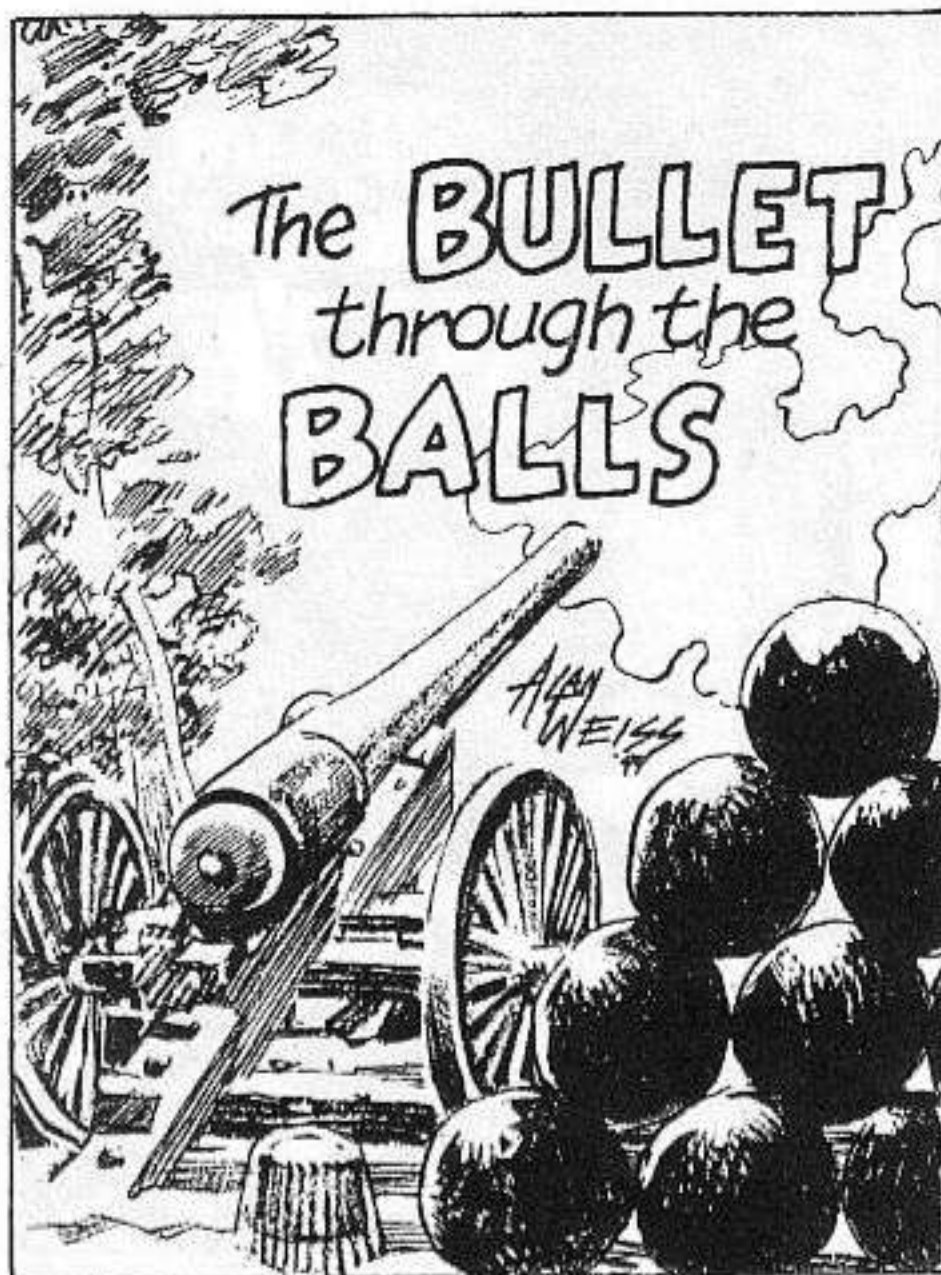
CONGRATULATIONS!

HOW DID HE GET IN THERE?



THE BABY HEADACHE





The BULLET through the BALLS

DURING THE LATE CIVIL WAR, A MATRON AND HER TWO DAUGHTERS STOOD READY TO MINISTER TO THE WOUNDS OF THEIR COUNTRYMEN.

ON MAY 12, 1863, A BATTLE BETWEEN NORTH AND SOUTH TOOK PLACE NEAR THEIR RESIDENCE.

AN INSTANT LATER, A PIERCING CRY WAS HEARD FROM THE HOUSE NEARBY, AS THE BULLET PENETRATED THE LEFT SIDE OF THE ABDOMEN OF THE ELDER DAUGHTER.

278 DAYS LATER, SHE BIRTHED A CHILD, TO THE SURPRISE OF HERSELF AND THE MORTIFICATION OF HER MOTHER AND SISTER.

DURING THE FRAY, A BULLET PASSED THROUGH THE SCROTUM OF A YOUNG SOLDIER AND CARRIED AWAY HIS LEFT TESTICLE.

THE YOUNG GIRL INSISTED ON HER VIRGINITY AND INNOCENCE.

ABOUT THREE WEEKS AFTER THIS REMARKABLE BIRTH, A DOCTOR WAS CALLED IN TO SEE THE INFANT ABOUT A HARD SUBSTANCE LODGED JUST UNDER ITS SKIN.

THE DOCTOR SAID THAT THIS WAS THE SAME BALL THAT HAD STRUCK THE SOLDIER AND, CARRYING SOME SPERMATOZOA, HAD PENETRATED THE GIRL'S OVARY AND IMPREGNATED HER.

THE DOCTOR OPERATED, AND EXTRACTED A BATTERED MINIBALL.

HE THEN INFORMED THE SOLDIER OF HIS NEW AND UNEXPECTED RESPONSIBILITY.

THE TWO MARRIED AND HAD THREE CHILDREN, NONE RESEMBLING, IN THE SAME DEGREE AS THE FIRST, THE HEROIC PATER FAMILIAS.

AIDS Mary



SUPERGLUE REVENGE



THE SHERIFF'S DAUGHTER



The FART in the Dark

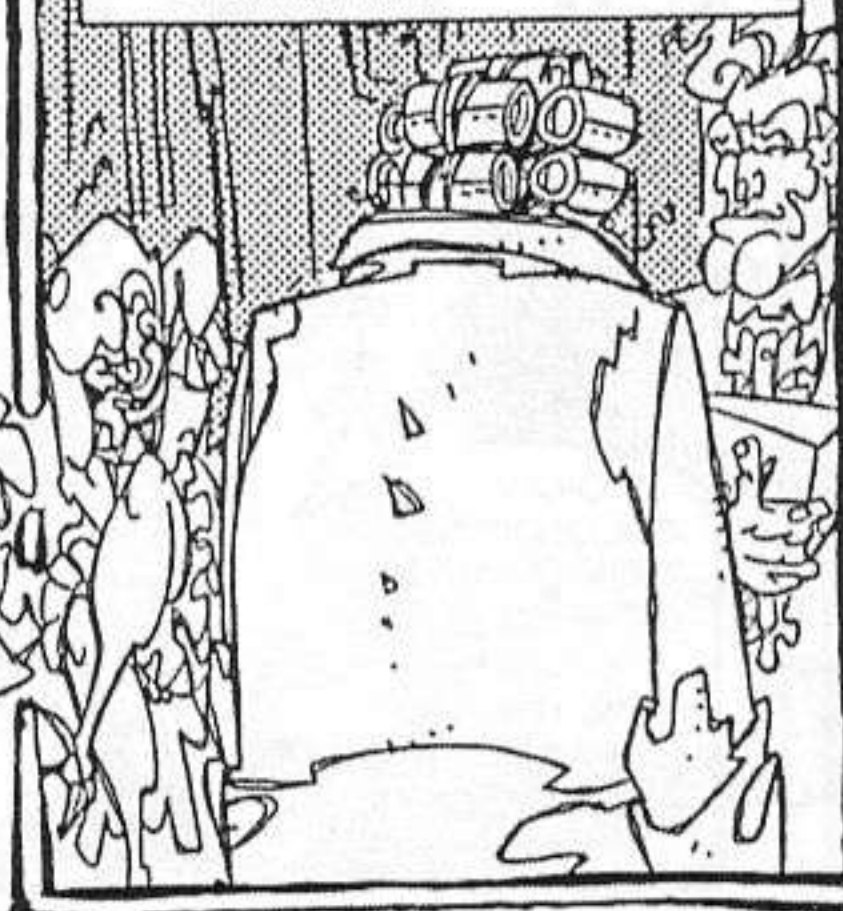
DEAR DIARY,
AS YOU KNOW, I'VE
NEVER BEEN OUT ON A
DATE-- UNTIL DREAMY
MIKE MOSS ASKED ME
TO THE DANCE.



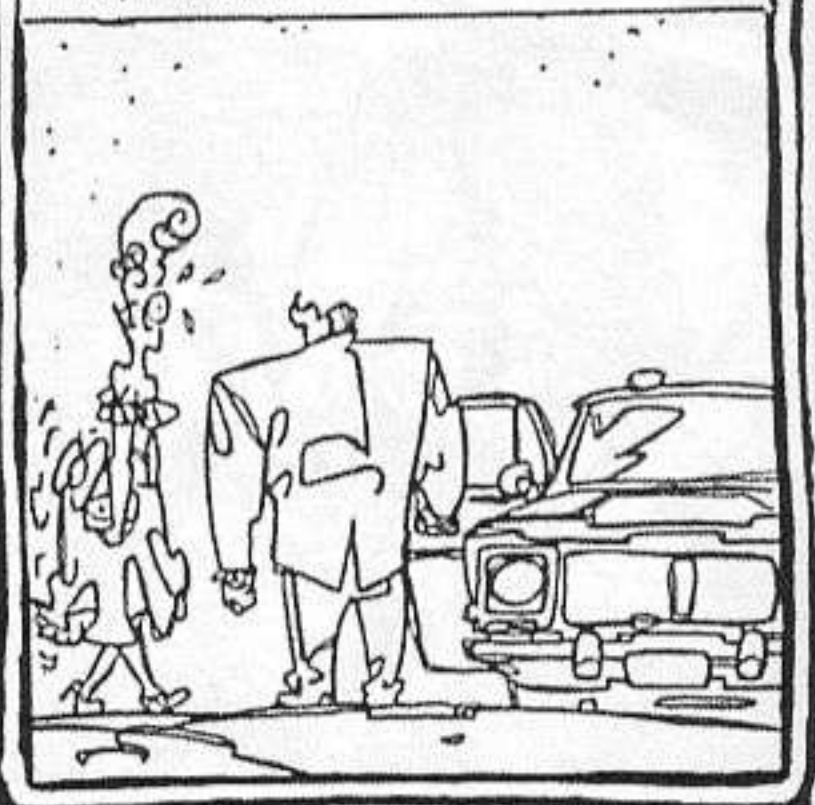
I WAS SO
EXCITED I
WENT OUT
AND HAD MY
HAIR AND
NAILS DONE.
BOUGHT A
PARTY DRESS,
TOO!



SO IMAGINE HOW I FELT WHEN
THE CHILI I ATE FOR LUNCH
BEGAN TO MAKE ITSELF KNOWN
THE MINUTE MIKE ARRIVED TO
PICK ME UP!



THERE I WAS, LEAVING ON MY
DREAM DATE WITH THE WORST
GAS PAINS OF MY LIFE! HE WAS
A PERFECT GENTLEMAN, THOUGH,
AND WHEN HE OPENED THE
DOOR AND CLOSED IT BEHIND
ME, A PLAN CAME INTO FOCUS.



I DID EVERYTHING I COULD
TO MAKE SURE THE EVENING
WOULD GO PERFECTLY, DIARY.



AS MY DATE WALKED AROUND
TO HIS OWN SIDE OF THE CAR, I
REALLY LET LOOSE...

...THEN I ROLLED DOWN
MY WINDOW AND FANNED
THE SMELL OUT BEFORE
HE COULD GET IN!

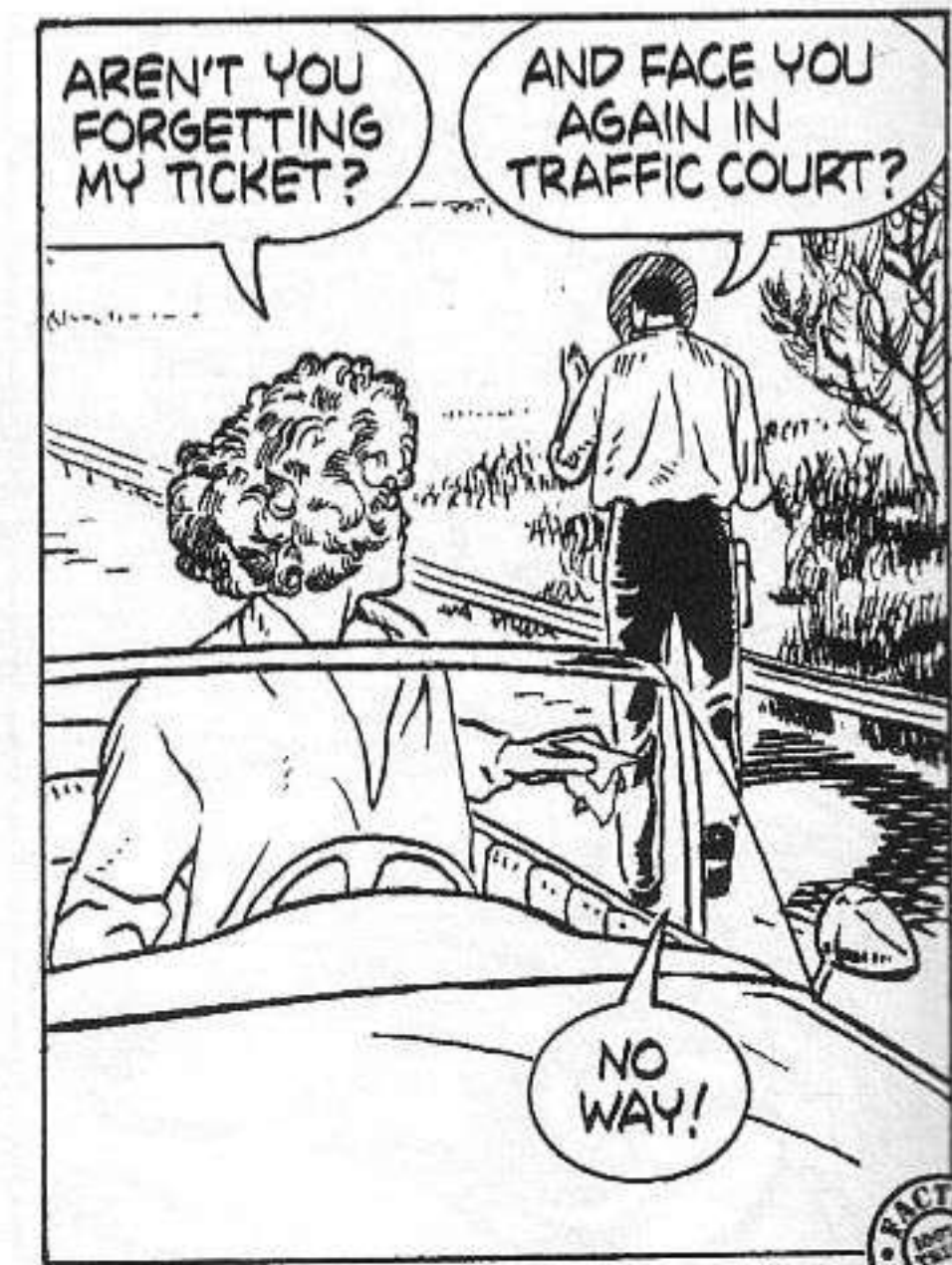
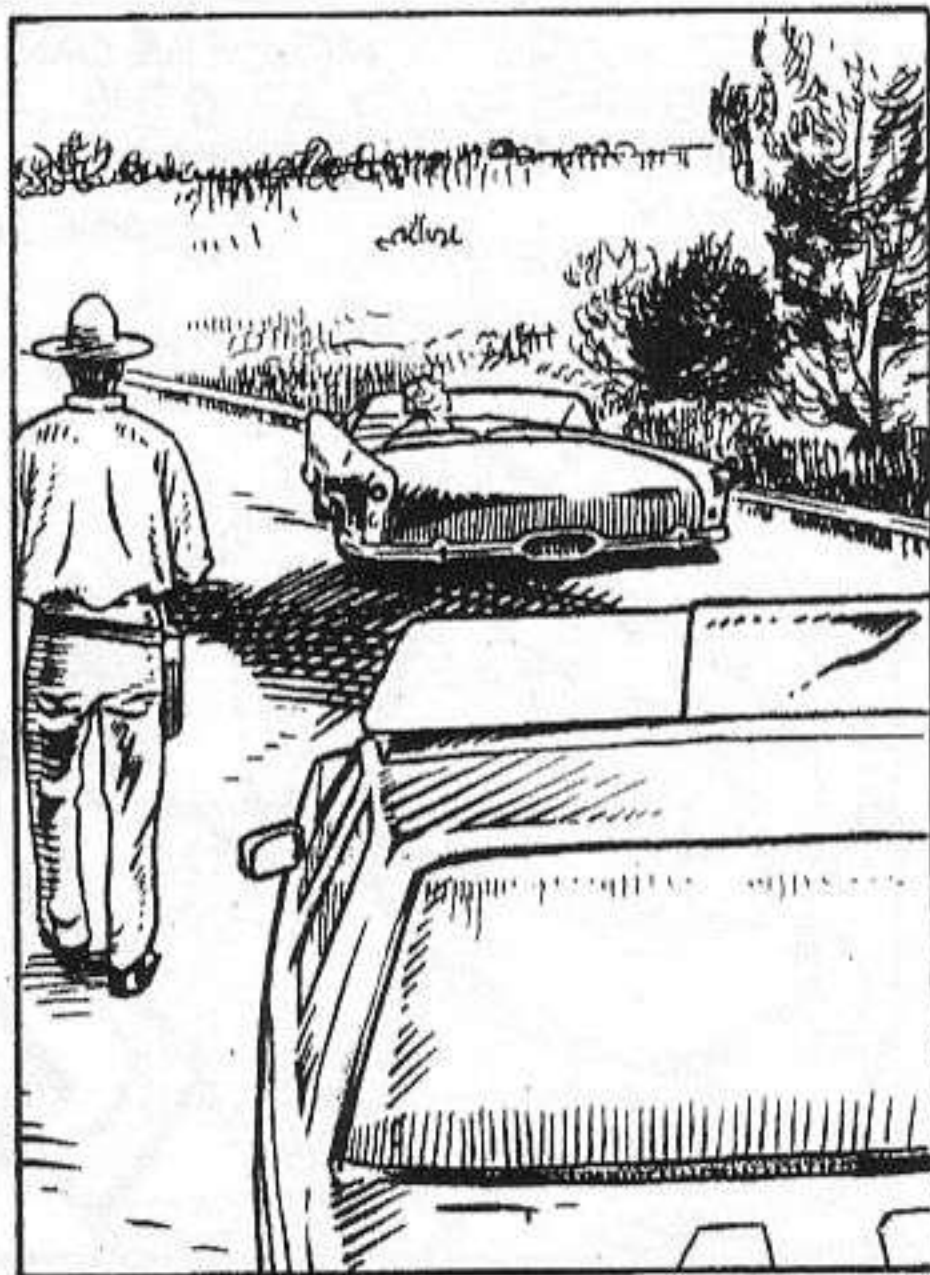


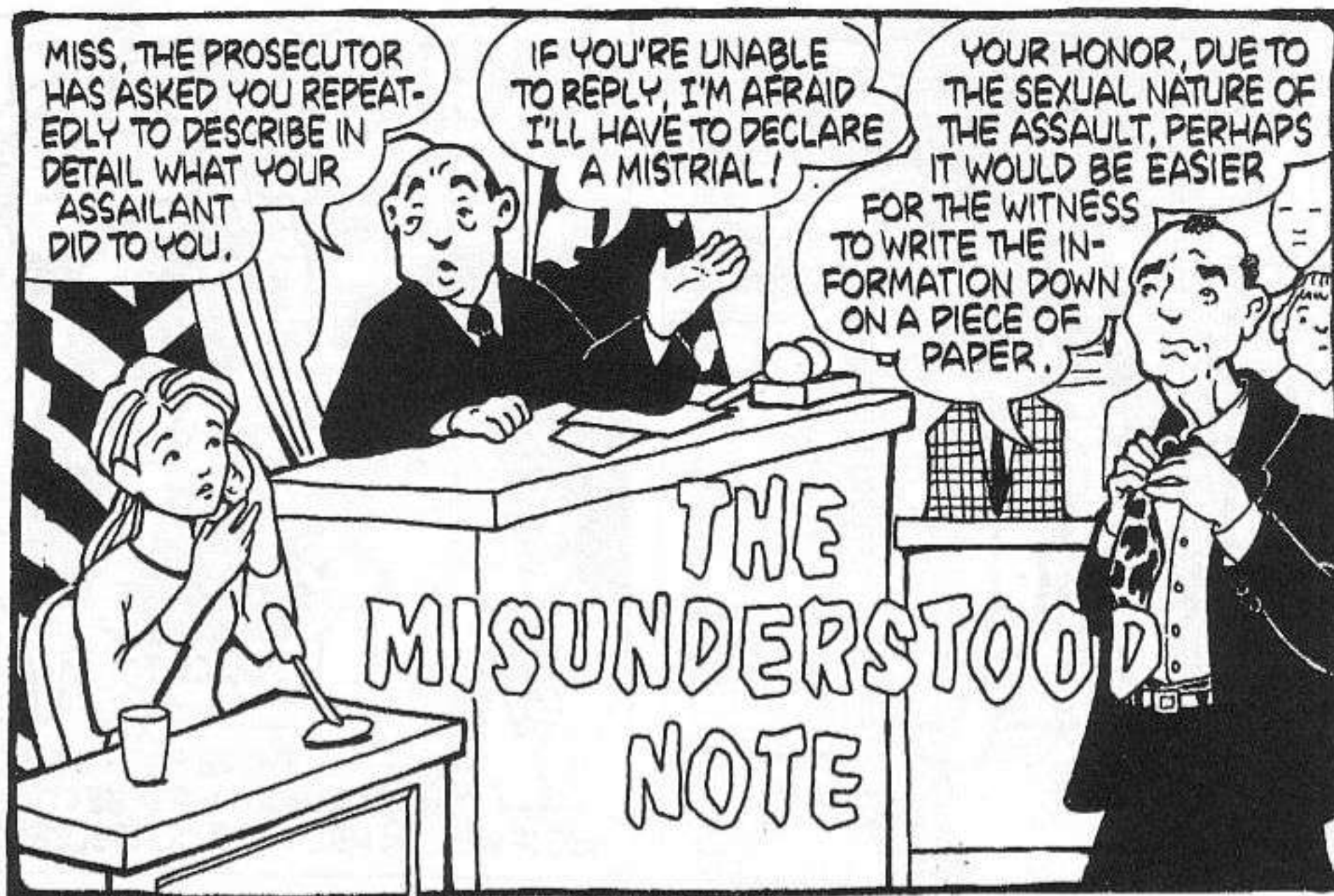
IT WOULD HAVE WORKED PER-
FECTLY, DIARY, EXCEPT FOR
TWO VERY IMPORTANT
THINGS I OVERLOOKED!

HAVE YOU MET
RUTH AND BOB?









SUPER HERO Hi- Jinks



THE BUTCHER'S PRANK

SAM LOVED TO PLAY JOKES.

JOY BUZZER--
GET IT?



ONE DAY SAM HAD AN IDEA
FOR A NAUGHTY TRICK.

I NEED
SOME
KIND OF
PINTO
FASTEN IT.

HE ATTACHED A SAUSAGE TO
HIS APRON IN SUCH A WAY...

HAPPY
MEATS

...THAT PEOPLE WHO NOTICED
IT WOULD THINK IT WAS
SOMETHING ELSE.

MEATS

HIYA, CHAUNCY!
YOUR MEAT'S IN
THE KITCHEN.
CALL ME IF YOU
NEED ANYTHI--

SIR! REGARD
YOURSELF
IN FRONT!

WHAT? THIS OL'
THING? I'LL
WHACK IT
OFF!

HAPPY
MEATS

BUT SAM'S JOKE BACKFIRED. THE
MAITRE 'D AT DELMONICO'S DIED
THAT NIGHT, AND HIS
WIDOW SUED THE
PANTS OFF SAM.

HAPPY
MEATS





THIS HERE IS A STORY MY PAL BARNEY TOLD ME. TODAY HE'S A PLUMBER LIKE ME, BUT HE USEDTA READ METERS FOR A LIVIN'.

OLD BARNEY'S GOT A MILLION STORIES, BUT THIS IS MY PERSONAL FAVORITE!

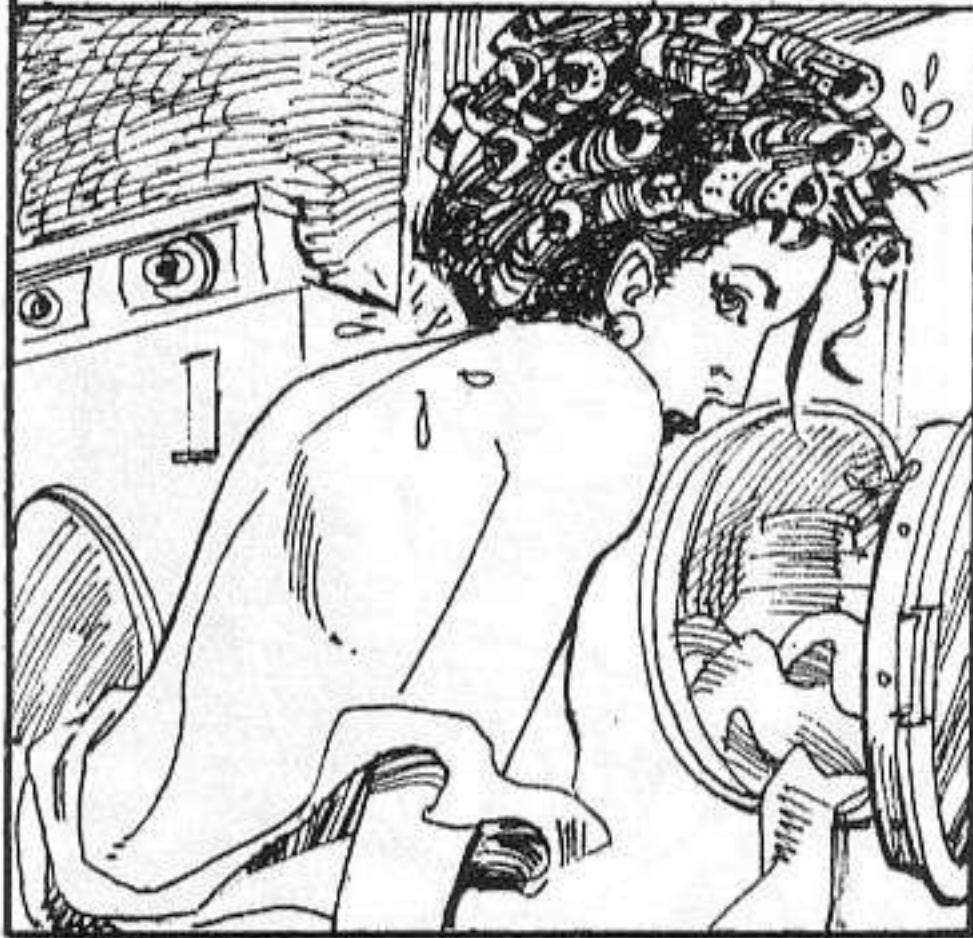
I CALL IT...

THE NUDE HOUSEWIFE

'OKAY, SO THERE'S THIS BROAD DOIN' LAUNDRY IN HER BASEMENT.



"SHE GETS THE MACHINE ALL LOADED WHEN SHE NOTICES HER WHATCHA-MACALLIT -- HOUSEDRESS -- IS SOILED.



"SO SHE TAKES OFF THE HOUSE-DRESS AN' THROWS IT IN WITH THE REST-A THE WASH.



"AN' SHE'S NOT WEARING A STITCH UNDERNEATH! I'M TALKING BUCK NEKKID!



"BUT IT GETS BETTER! SHE NOTICES PIPES LEAKING ONTO THESE CAST-IRON CURLERS SHE'S GOT IN HER HAIR...

"... SO WHAT DOES THIS DAFFY BROAD DO? SHE PUTS HER KID'S FOOTBALL HELMET ON HER HEAD TO PREVENT RUST!

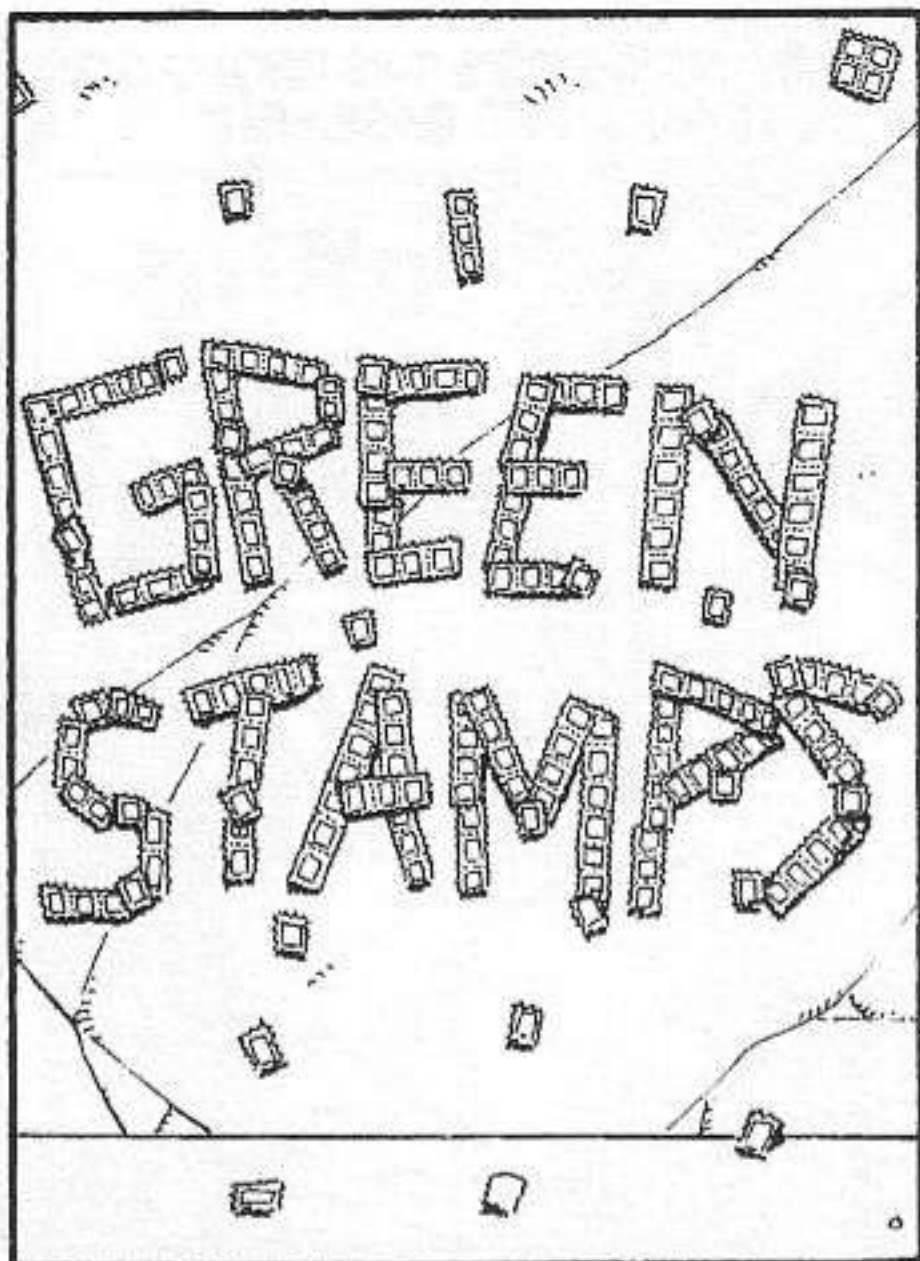


"WHAT SHE DOESN'T KNOW IS THAT MY MAN BARNEY'S BEEN THERE ALL ALONG READIN' HER METER! HE DOESN'T BAT AN EYE, OLD BARNEY! HE JUST LOOKS THE BROAD UP AND DOWN AND SAYS...



I HOPE YOUR TEAM WINS, LADY.

"HAW HAW HAW! AN' IF YOU THINK THAT WAS FUNNY, YOU OUGHTA HEAR BARNEY TELL IT!"



"IN FALL, 1963, I WAS LIVING IN DALLAS DURING MY THIRD PREGNANCY..."



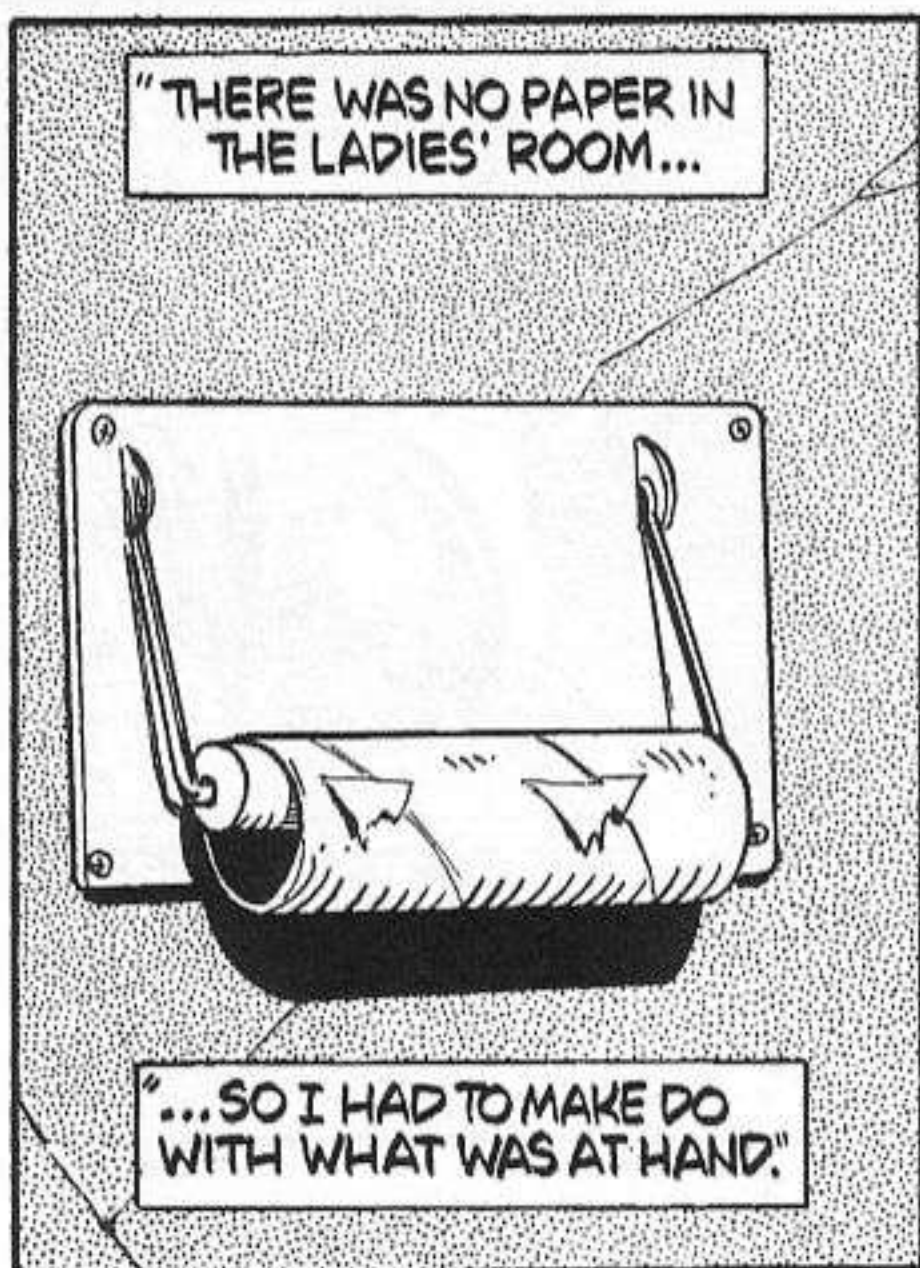
I THINK MY BLADDER'S GOING TO BURST!



"I WAS AT THE OB'S FOR AN EXAMINATION..."

COULD I USE THE BATHROOM?

SURE. IT'S RIGHT DOWN THE HALL.



"THERE WAS NO PAPER IN THE LADIES' ROOM..."

"...SO I HAD TO MAKE DO WITH WHAT WAS AT HAND."



I'M SURE I'VE GOT SOMETHING MADE OF PAPER IN HERE...



YOU'RE OUT OF TOILET PAPER.

OH.

WELL, THE DOCTOR WILL SEE YOU NOW.



LET'S GET YOU UP ON THE TABLE AND--

OOF! YOU'VE GAINED SOME MORE WEIGHT!

BUT YOU HAVE TO DIVIDE IT IN HALF, BECAUSE I'M GAINING FOR TWO!



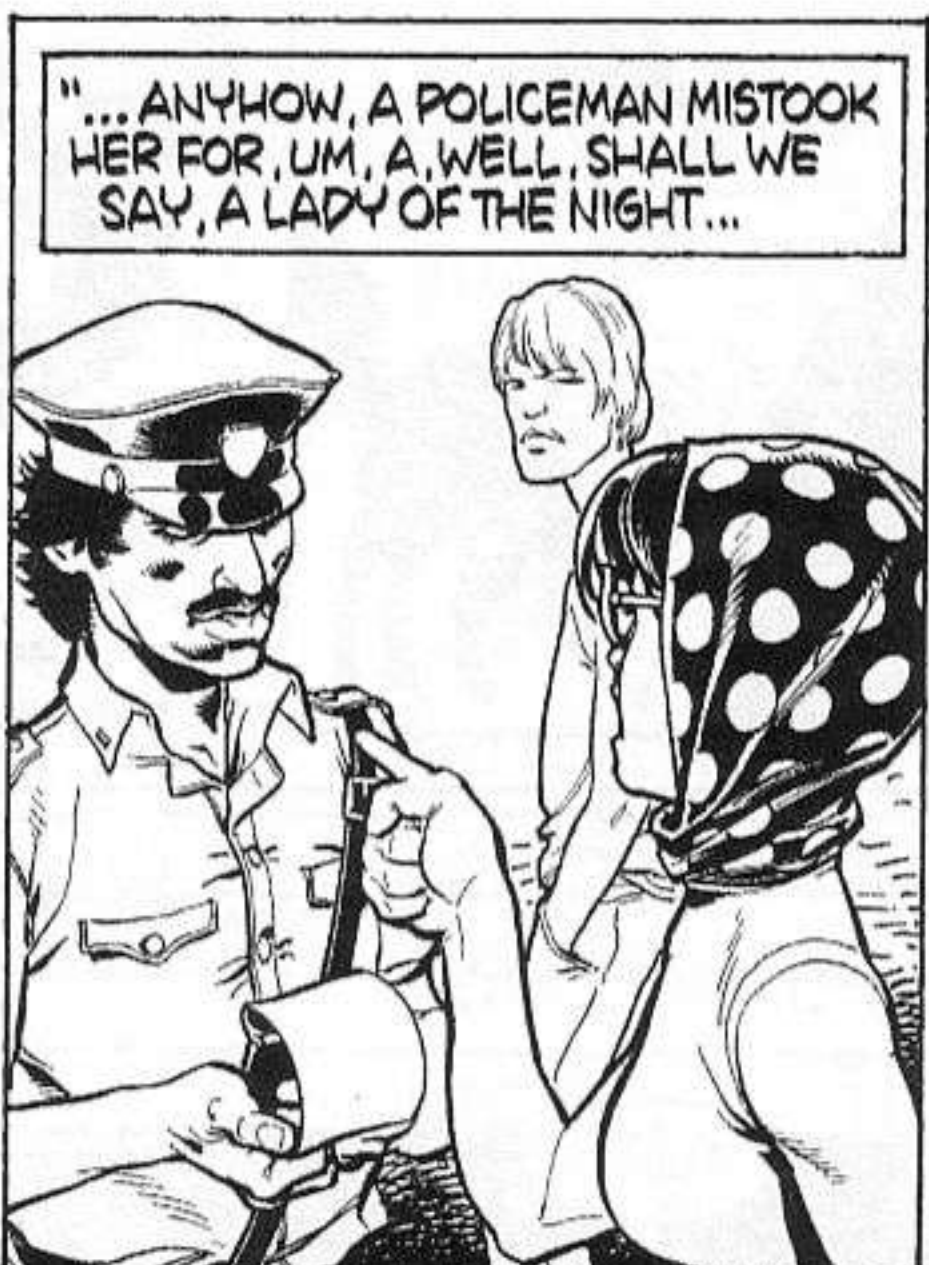
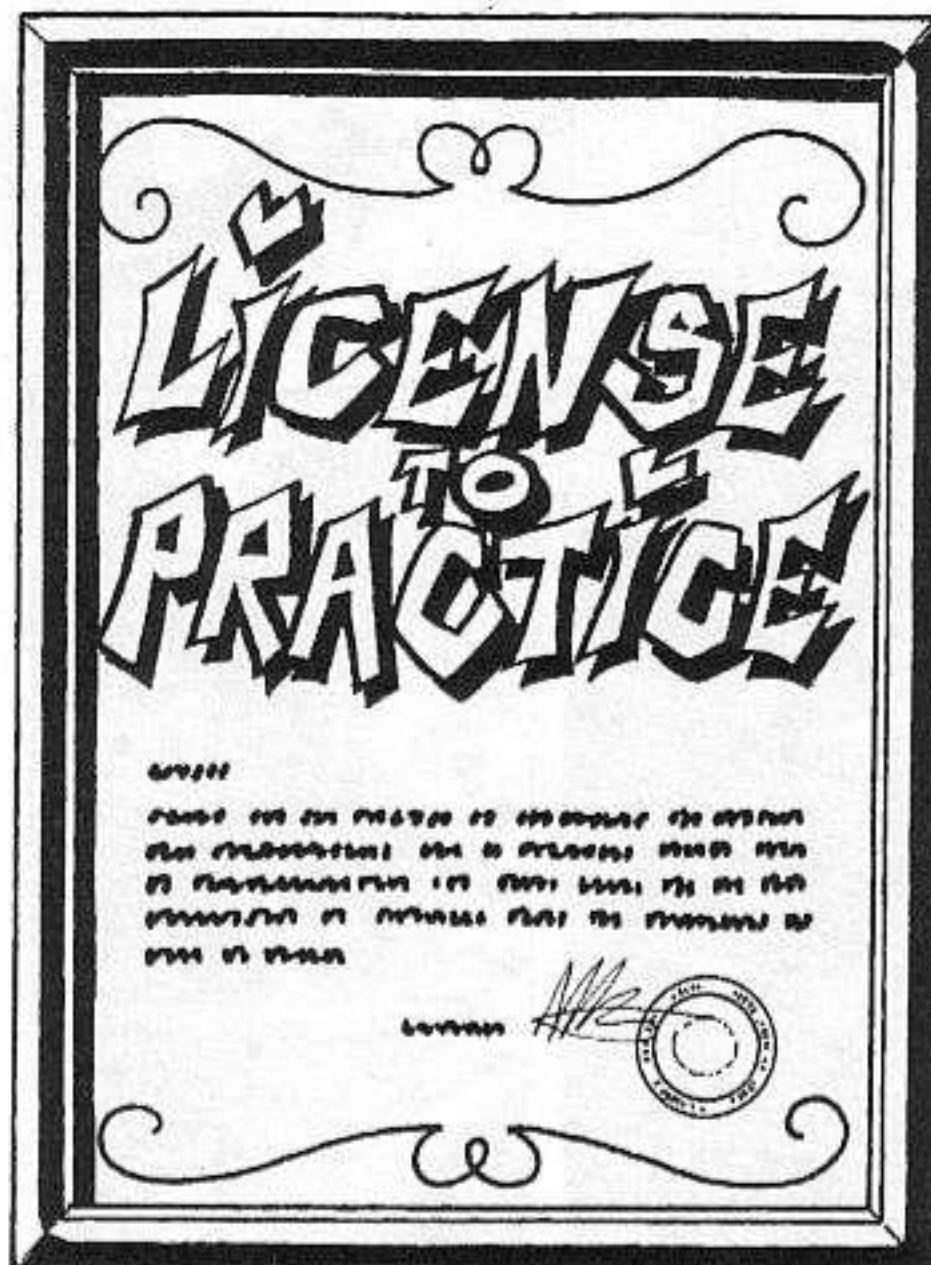
IS, UH... EVERYTHING IN ORDER, DOCTOR?

WHY, YES, EVERYTHING'S FINE.

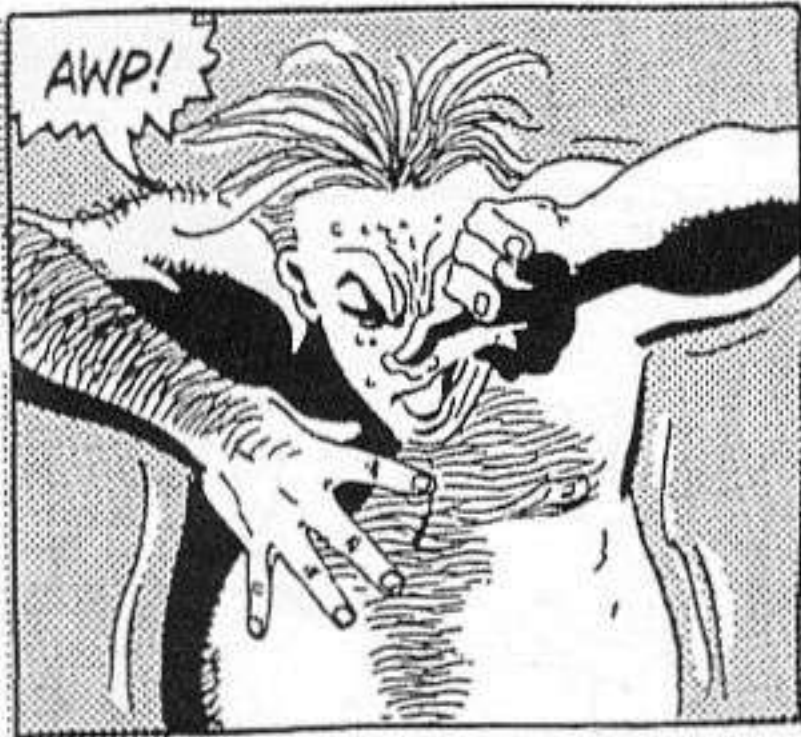
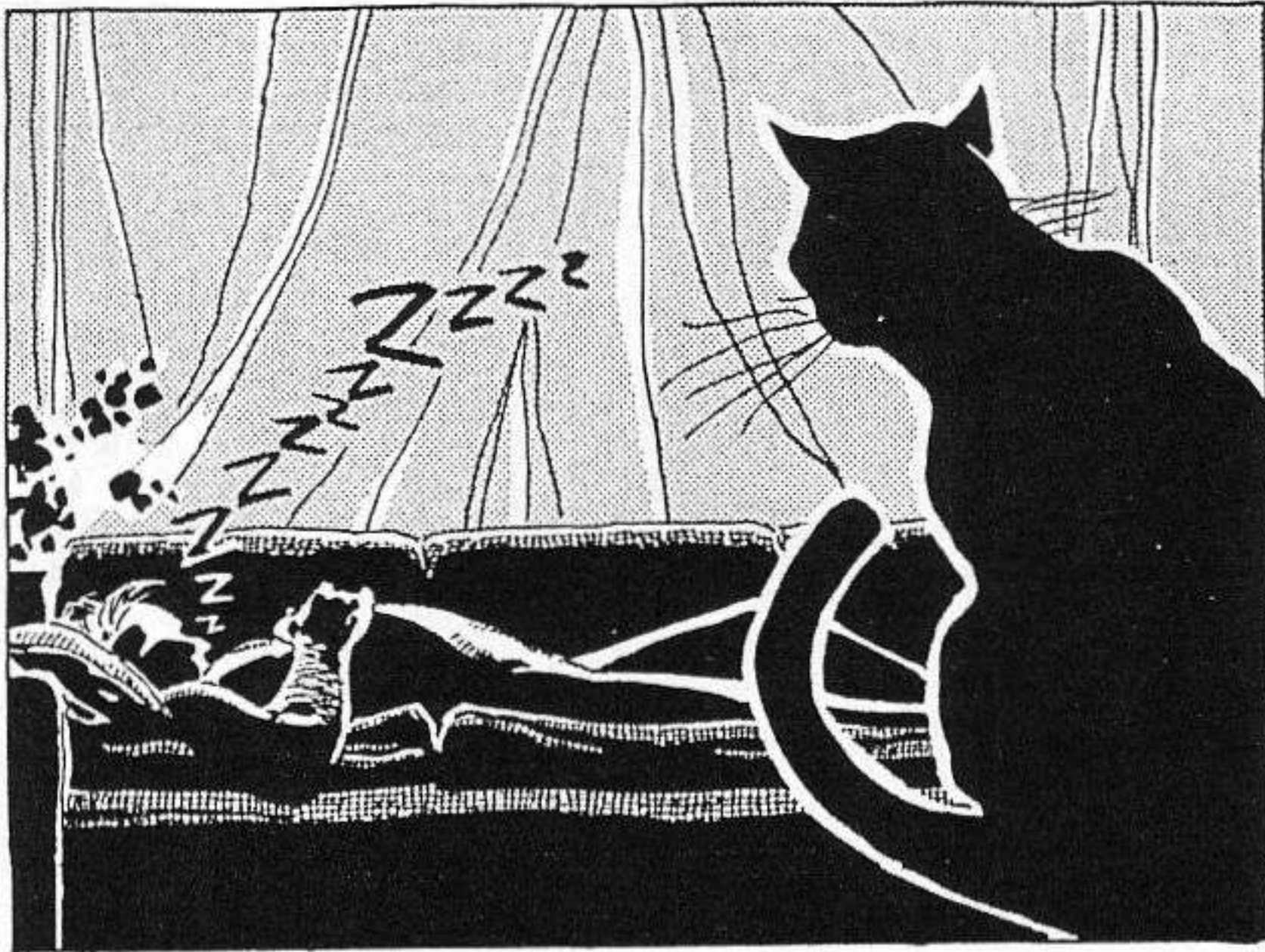


BUT I SEE YOU'VE STARTED GIVING GREEN STAMPS!

OH, NO! NOW I'M BLUSHING FOR TWO!



the CAT and the NUDE MAN



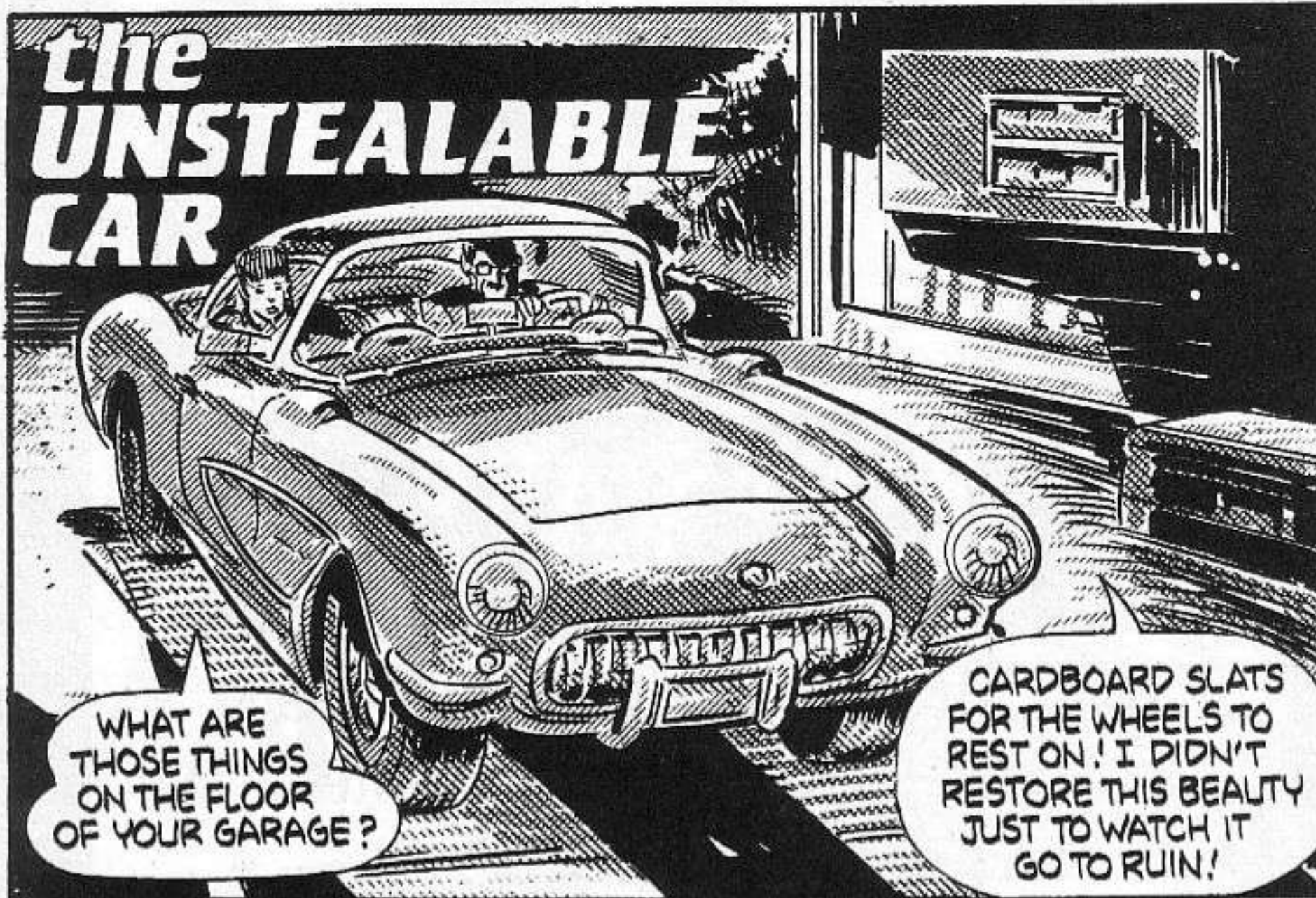
CHAPTER SIX

CRIMES AND MISDEMEANORS

CRIME LEGENDS

In real life, many everyday crimes are just predictable and depressing incidents — a dismal series of muggings, car thefts, holdups, shopliftings and the like. Most of us, thankfully, have little experience with the likes of murders, jewel thefts, terrorism, or international spying, except in mystery novels and other media products. The perspective on crime that urban legends provide is of rather ordinary criminal acts that lead up to an unexpected and often ironic and humorous plot twist. The most common legend-crime is theft, involving anything from a cookie (*page 159*) to a kidney (*page 154*).

the UNSTEALABLE CAR



WHAT ARE THOSE THINGS ON THE FLOOR OF YOUR GARAGE?

CARDBOARD SLATS FOR THE WHEELS TO REST ON! I DIDN'T RESTORE THIS BEAUTY JUST TO WATCH IT GO TO RUIN!



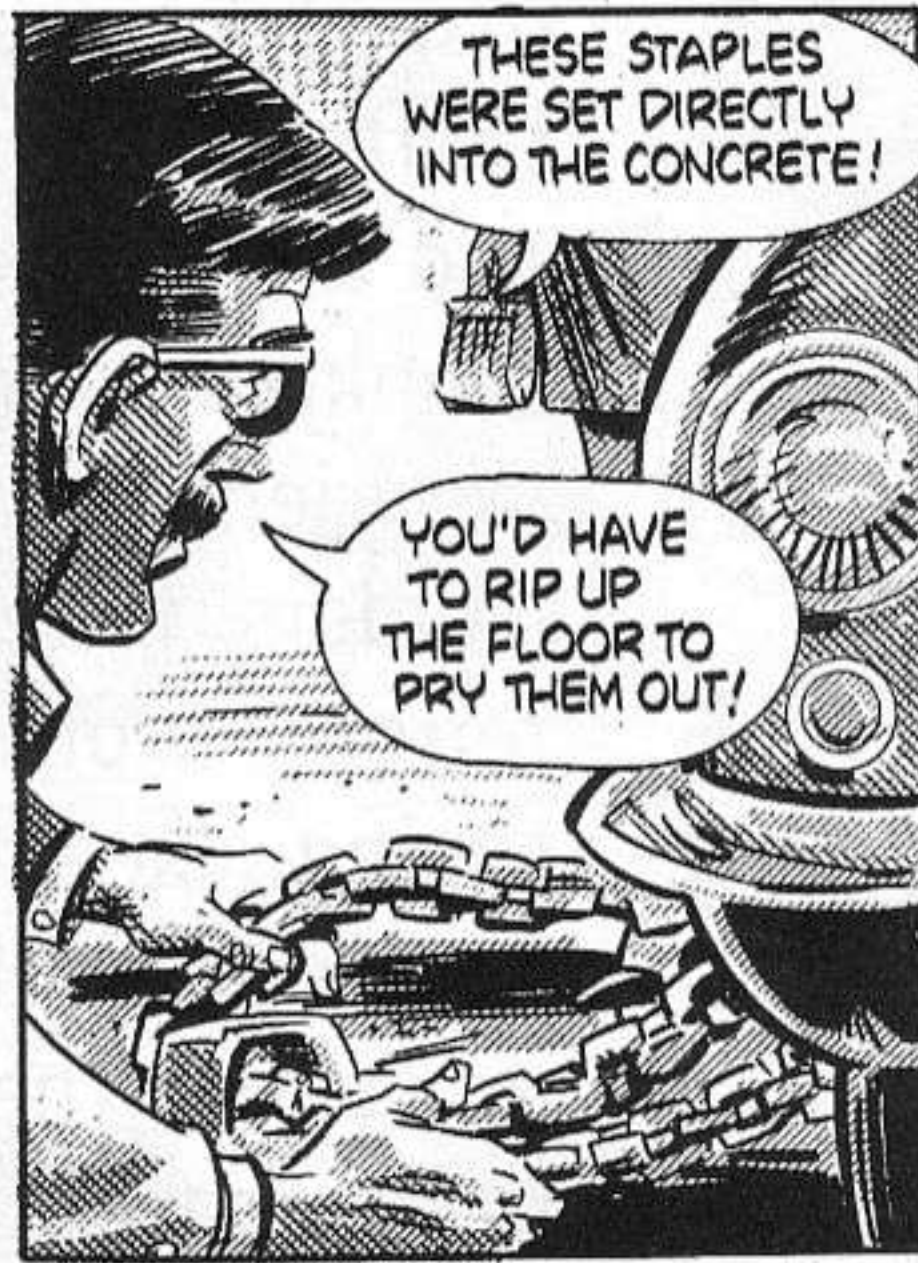
I ONLY TAKE IT OUT ON SPECIAL OCCASIONS... AND ONLY IN PERFECT WEATHER!

WELL, I GUESS YOU'RE JUST BEING SENSIBLE.



MY WORST FEAR IS THAT SOMEONE MIGHT STEAL HER! SEE THESE HEAVY CHAINS I'M WRAPPING AROUND THE FRAME?

THEY'RE VIRTUALLY UNBREAKABLE!



THESE STAPLES WERE SET DIRECTLY INTO THE CONCRETE!

YOU'D HAVE TO RIP UP THE FLOOR TO PRY THEM OUT!



THESE LOCKS ARE PICKPROOF AND DESIGNED TO WITHSTAND THE FORCE OF A SHOTGUN BLAST!



YOU'VE REALLY TAKEN ELABORATE PRECAUTIONS!

IT WAS WORTH IT TO SECURE PEACE OF MIND!



THE NEXT MORNING...

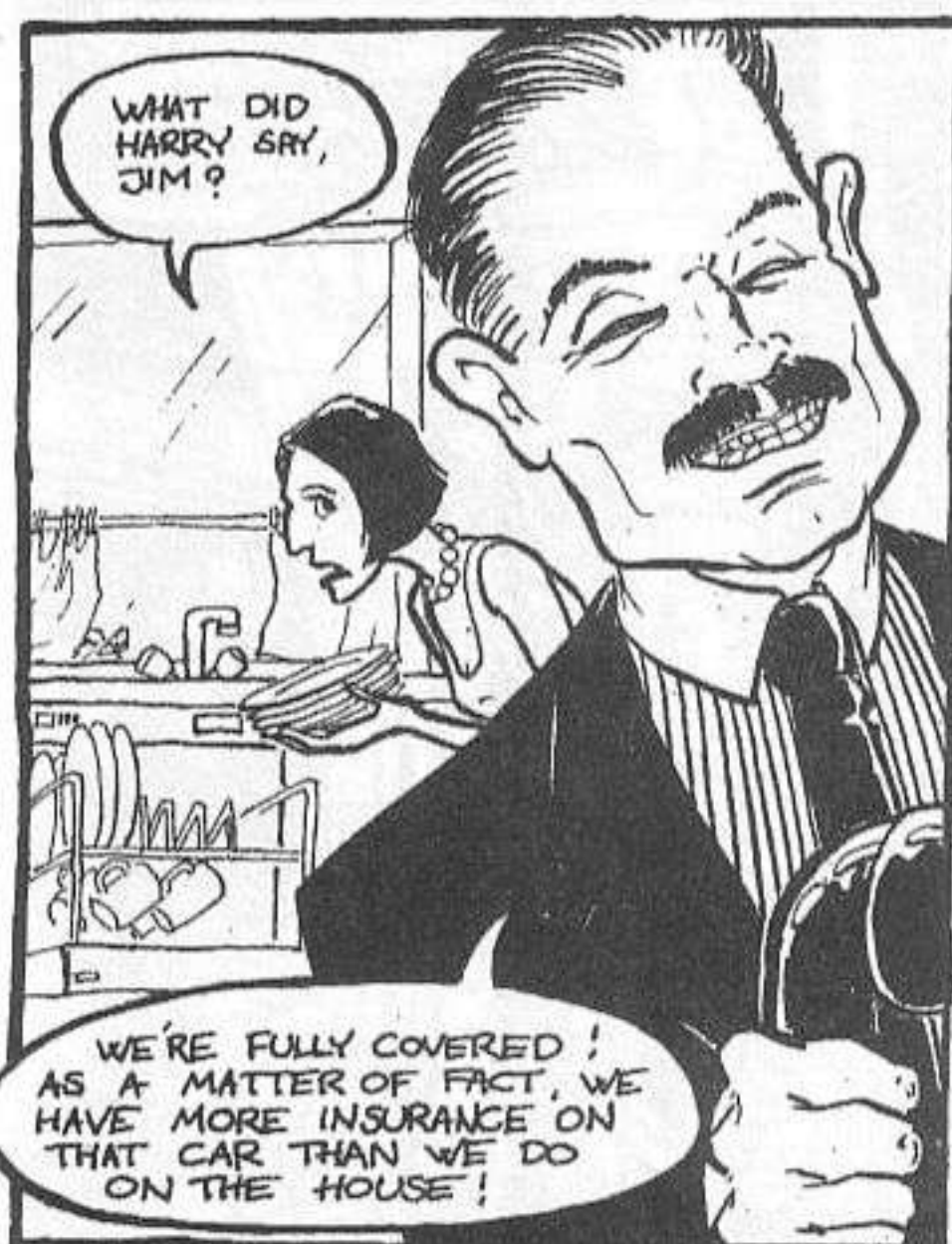
MY CAR'S FACING OUT! BUT I NEVER BACK IT IN!! SOMEBODY MOVED IT!

IS THAT A NOTE?



WHEN WE WANT IT, WE'LL COME AND GET IT.

THE DOUBLE THEFT

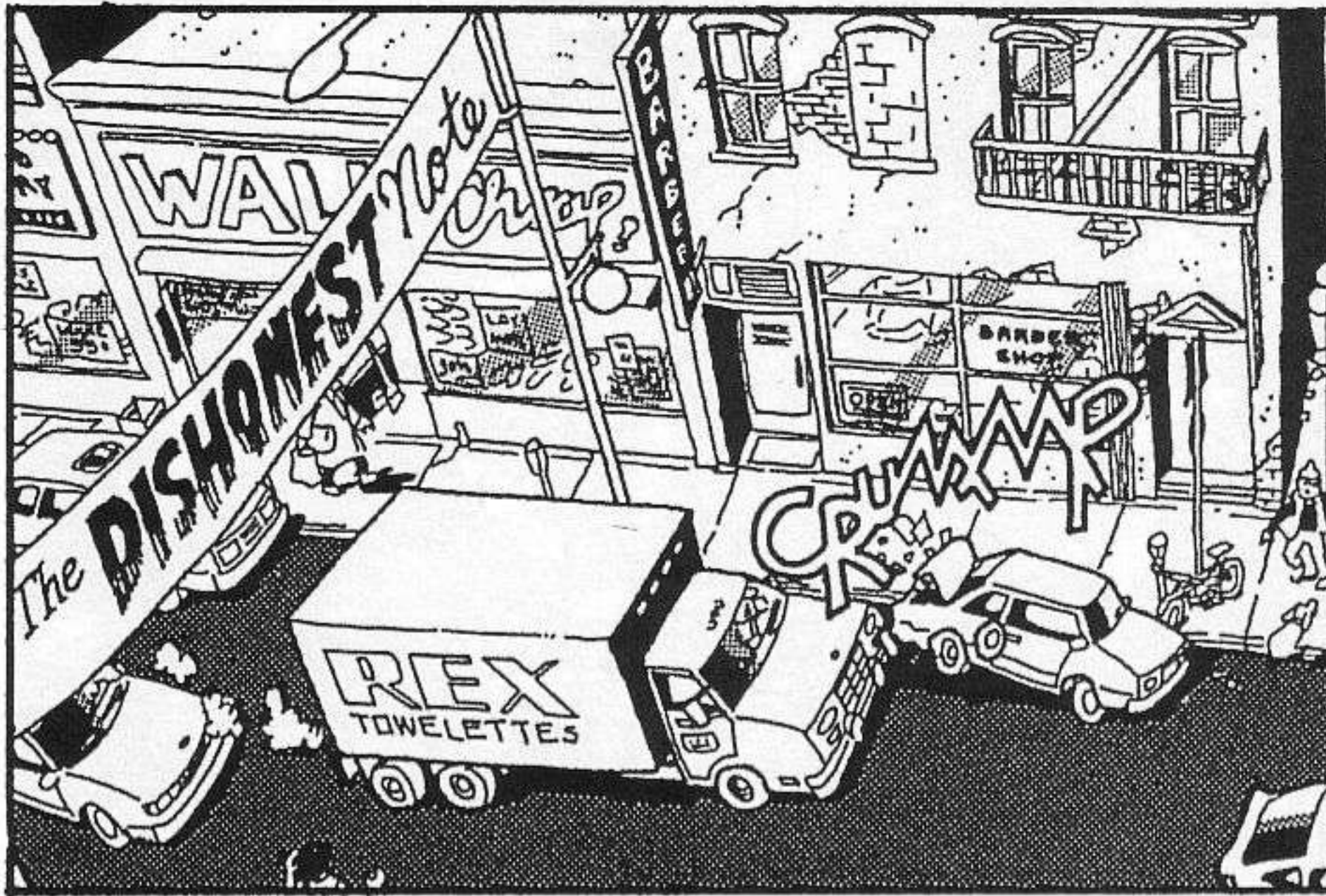


THE ROBBER WHO WAS HURT!









AND HE KNOWS IT,
TOO! MAYBE WE'D
BETTER GO OUT
THERE AND--

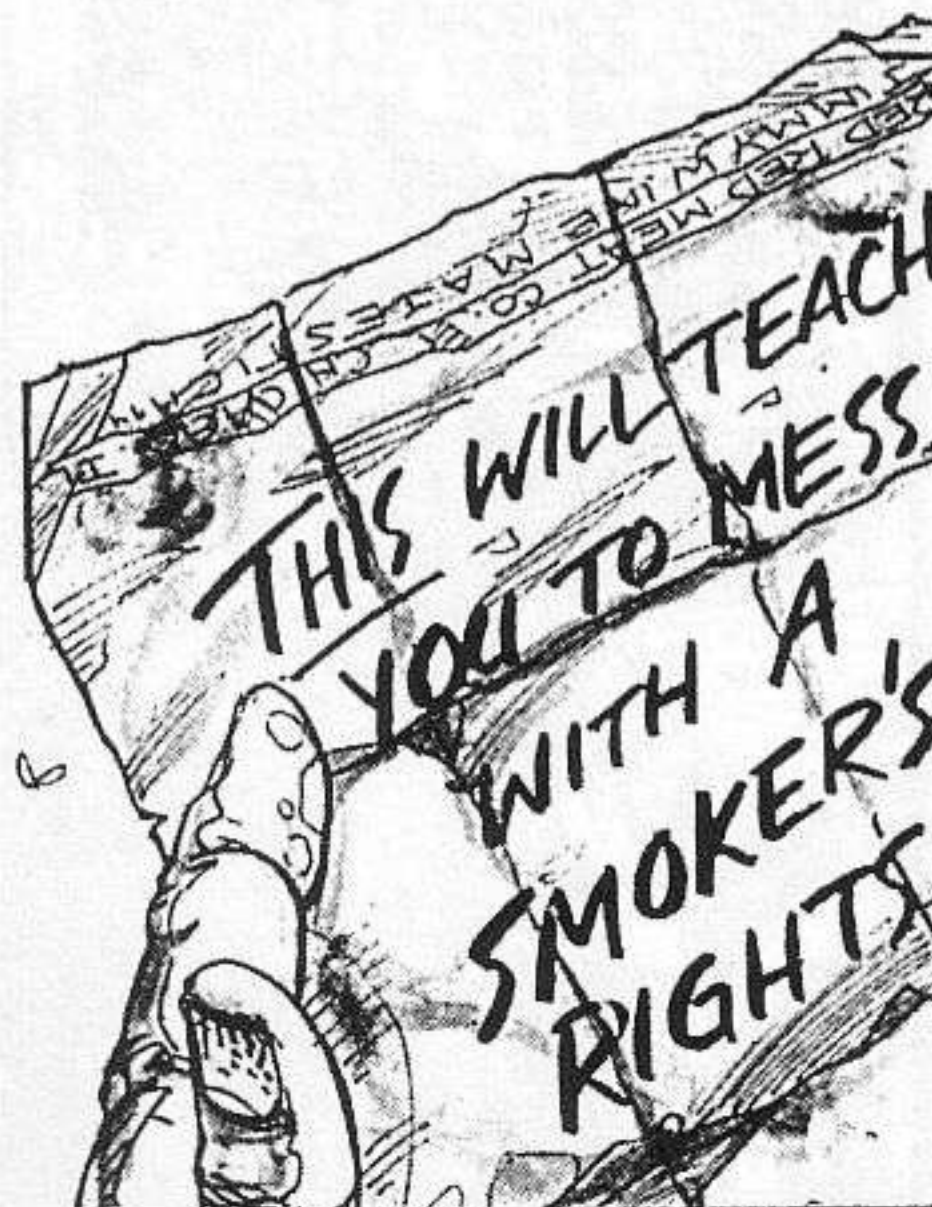


NOW THAT HE KNOWS
WE SEEN IT ALL, WHAT'S
HE GONNA DO?



WHATTAYA
KNOW! AN
HONEST
TRUCKER!









SURE! FOR YOU, I CAN MAKE THE RING BIGGER! A GOOD BUY AT ANY SIZE, THIS RING!

AND WHILE YOU'RE WAITING, SUCH A STORY I HAVE TO TELL YOU! MY BROTHER HERMAN GOT IT FROM ONE OF HIS CUSTOMERS, A LADY HE STOLE FROM ME, BY THE WAY, BUT THAT'S ANOTHER STORY!

I TELL YOU THIS ONLY AS A WARNING, FOR YOUR OWN GOOD! IT'S ALL PART OF THE SERVICE.

THE CUT-OFF FINGER



"ANYWAY, THIS FORMER CUSTOMER OF MINE RIDES THE BUS ALMOST EVERY DAY.

"ONE AFTERNOON A YOUNG MAN GOT ON AND SAT BESIDE HER..."



WHY, YOU'RE BLEEDING! DO YOU NEED A DOCTOR?

HUH?



NO, I'M FINE.

ARE YOU SURE? THAT'S A LOT OF BLOOD!

IT'S NOTHING. DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.



THAT LOOKS LIKE A SERIOUS WOUND, SON.

YOU SHOULD SEE A DOCTOR!

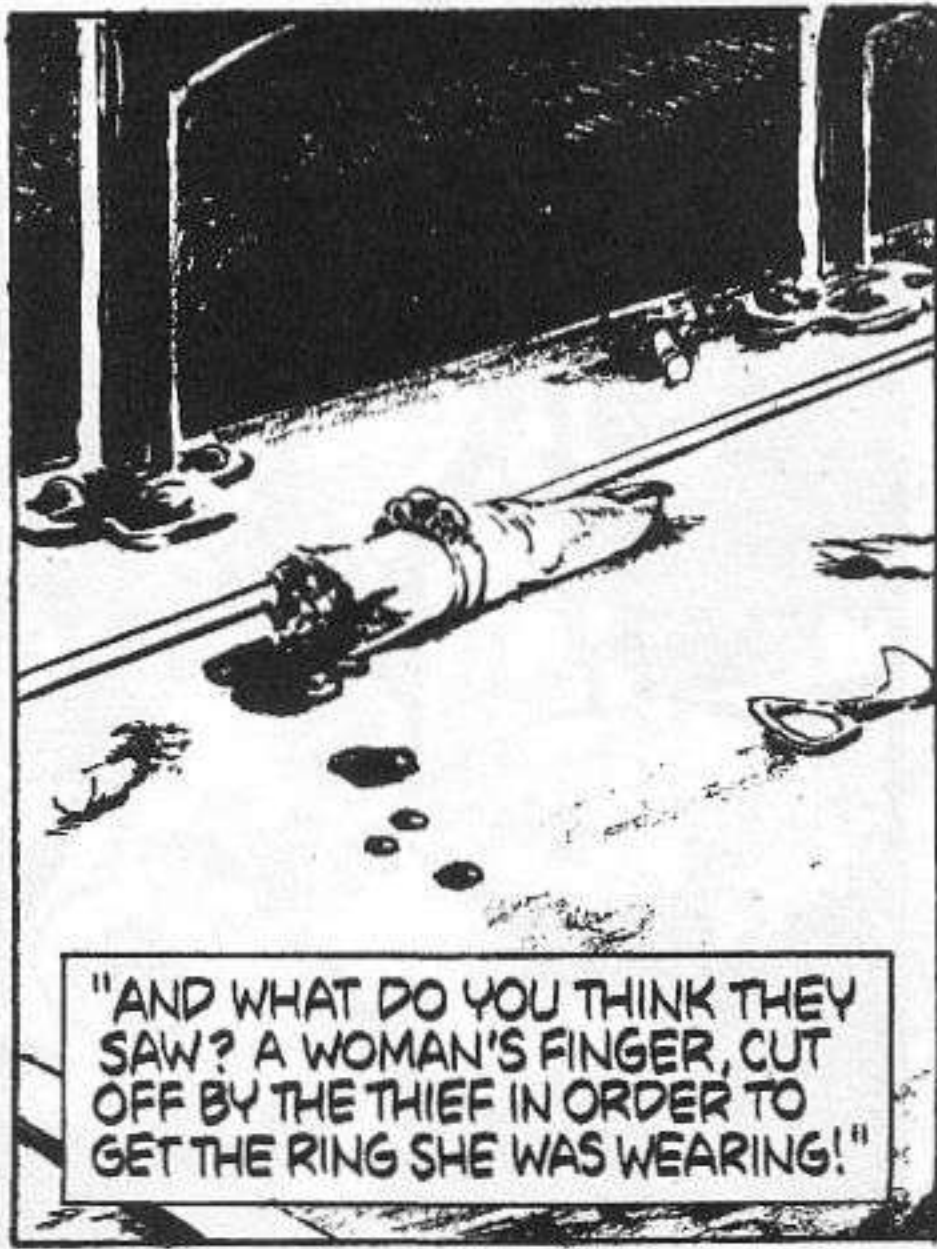
LEAVE ME ALONE, ALL OF YOU!!



WAIT! YOU DROPPED SOMETHING!

WHAT IS IT?

IT LOOKS LIKE--



"AND WHAT DO YOU THINK THEY SAW? A WOMAN'S FINGER, CUT OFF BY THE THIEF IN ORDER TO GET THE RING SHE WAS WEARING!"



SO YOU SEE WHY I WANT TO SELL YOU A RING THAT FITS! IT'S THE ONLY--

OY GEVALT!

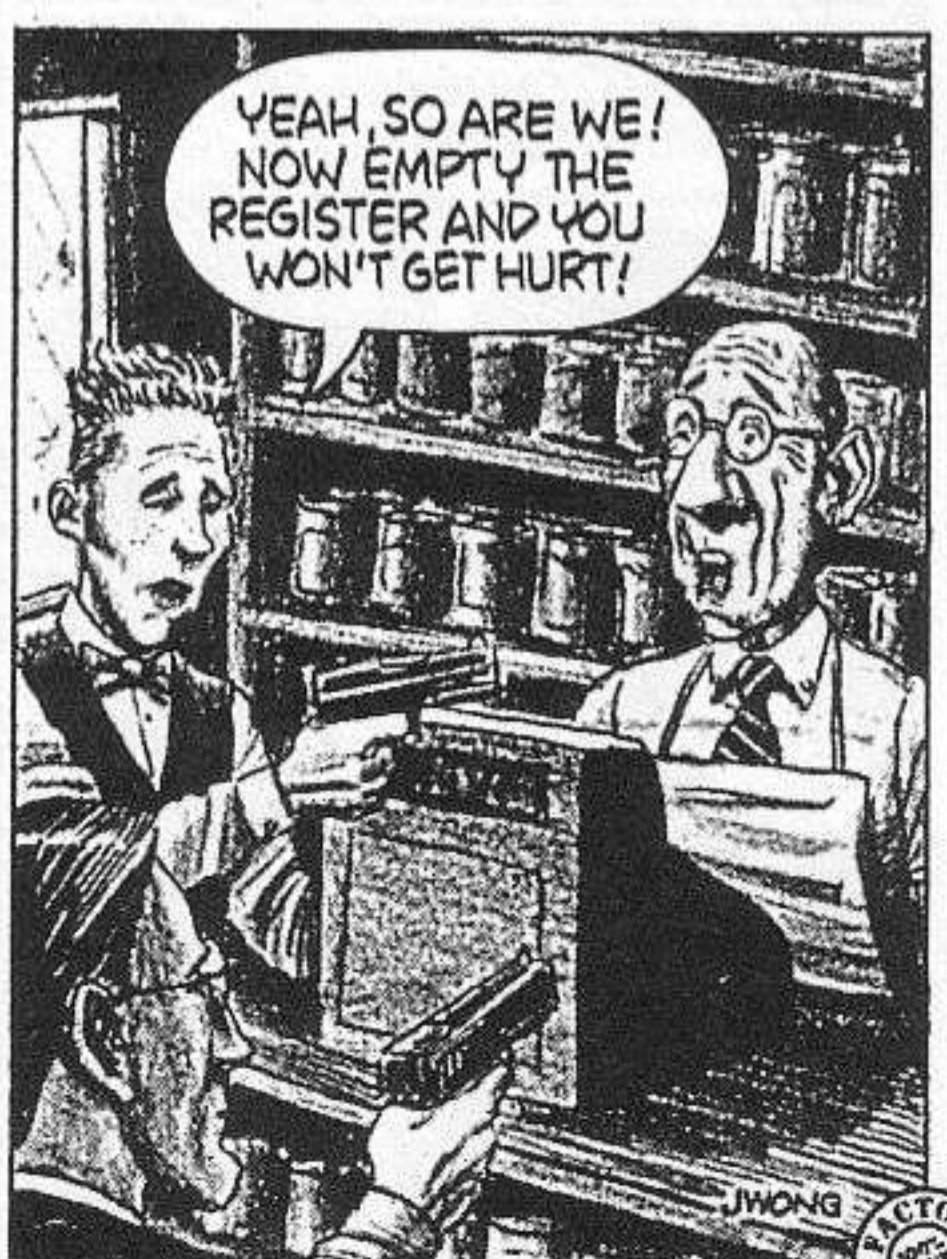
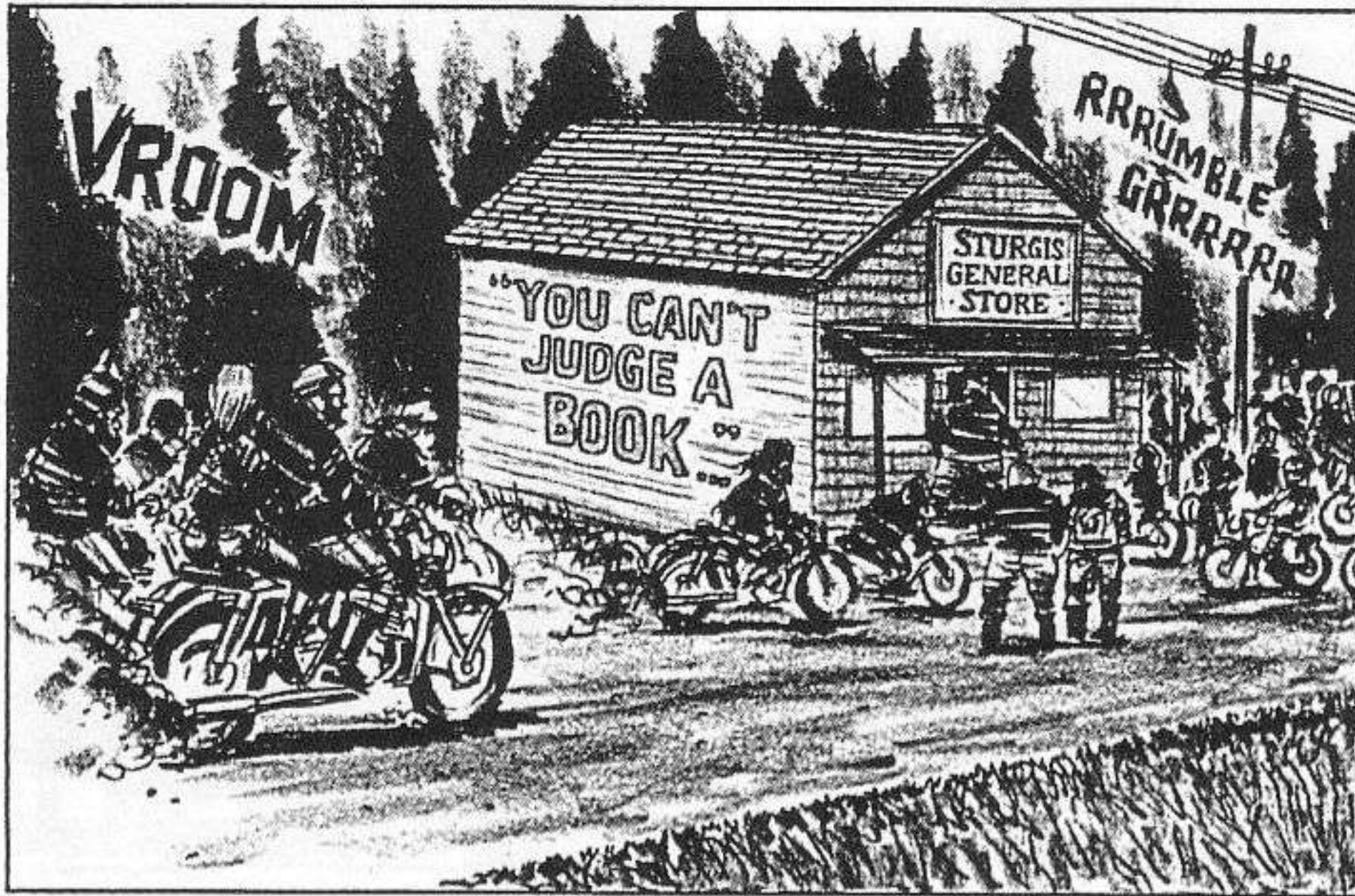
MY BROTHER HERMAN THE CUSTOMER-ROBBER STRIKES AGAIN!



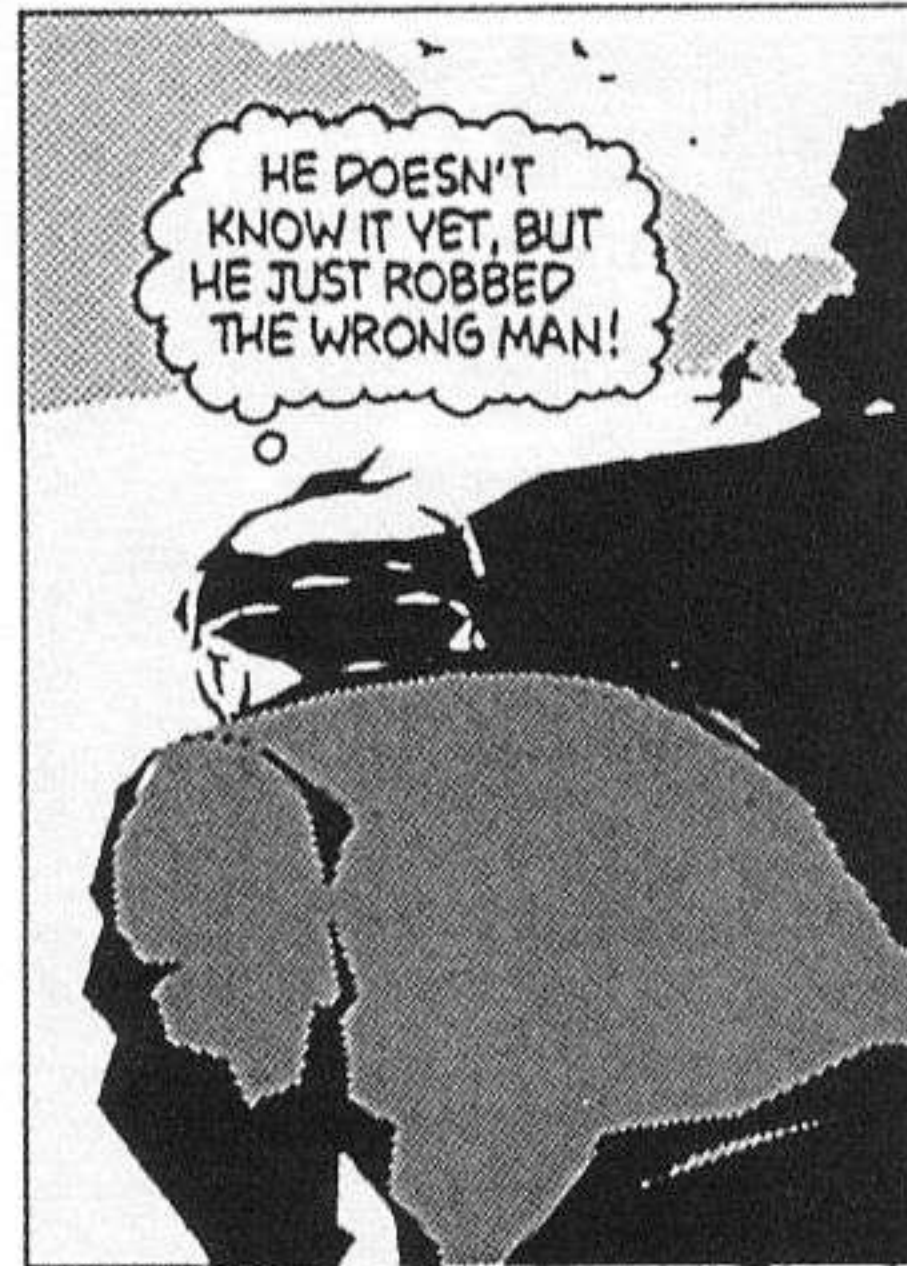
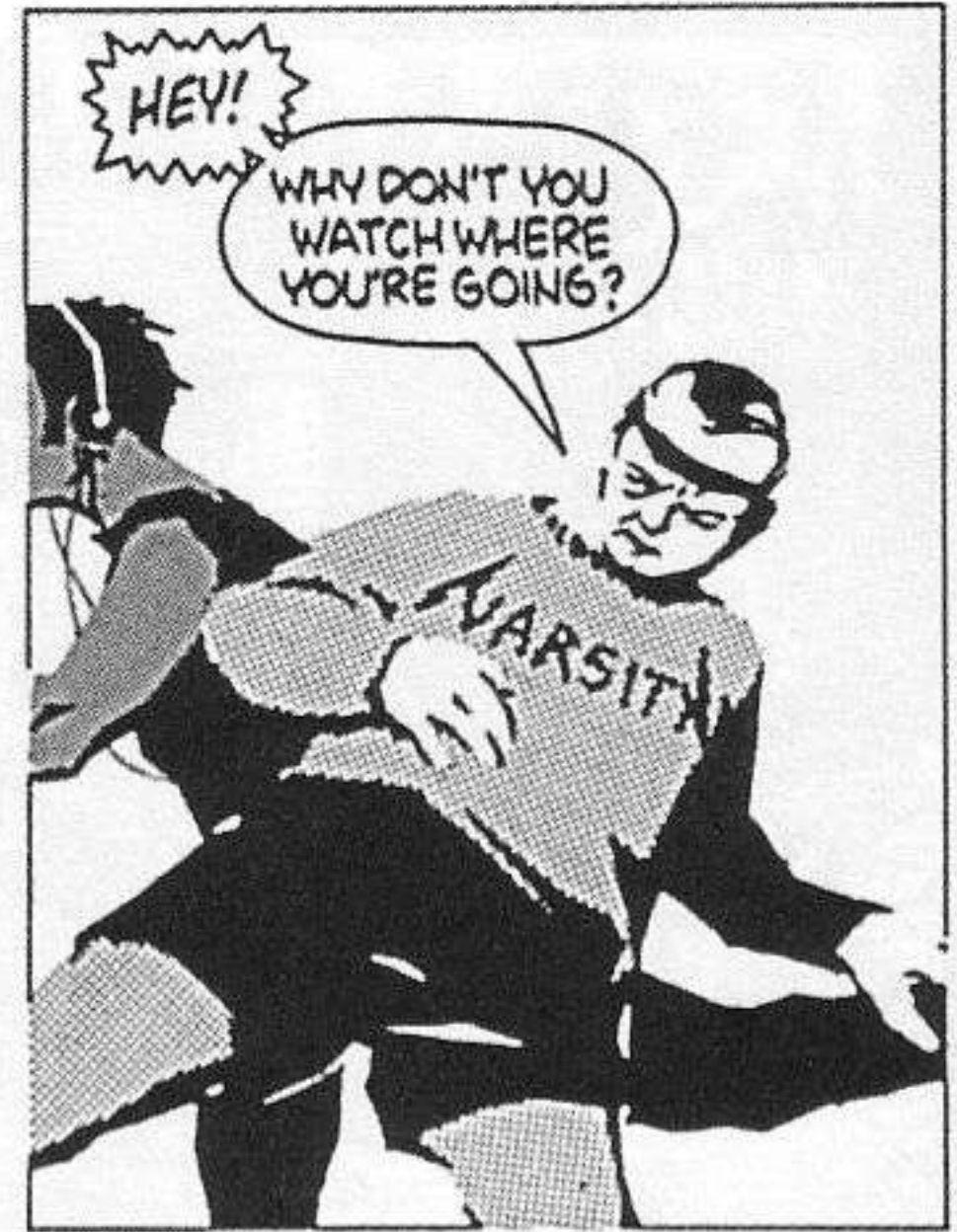
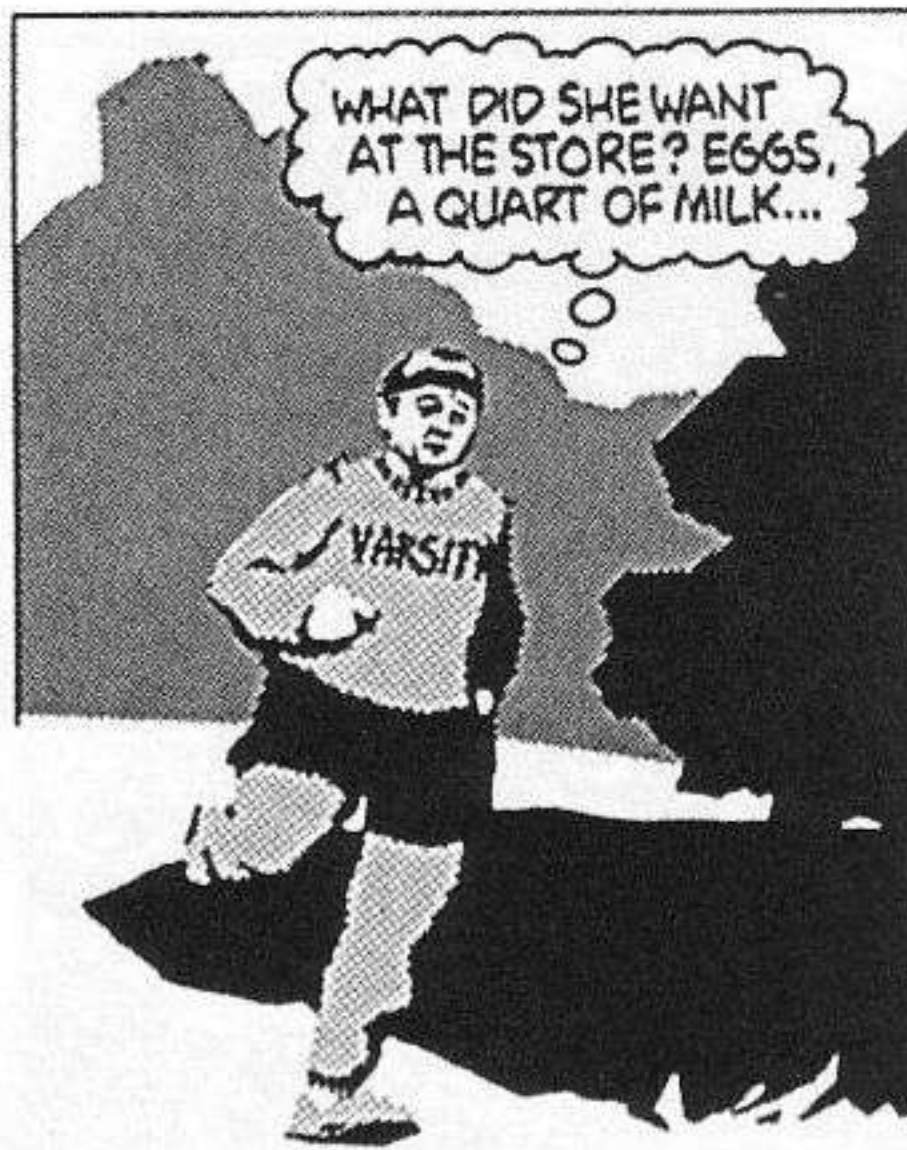






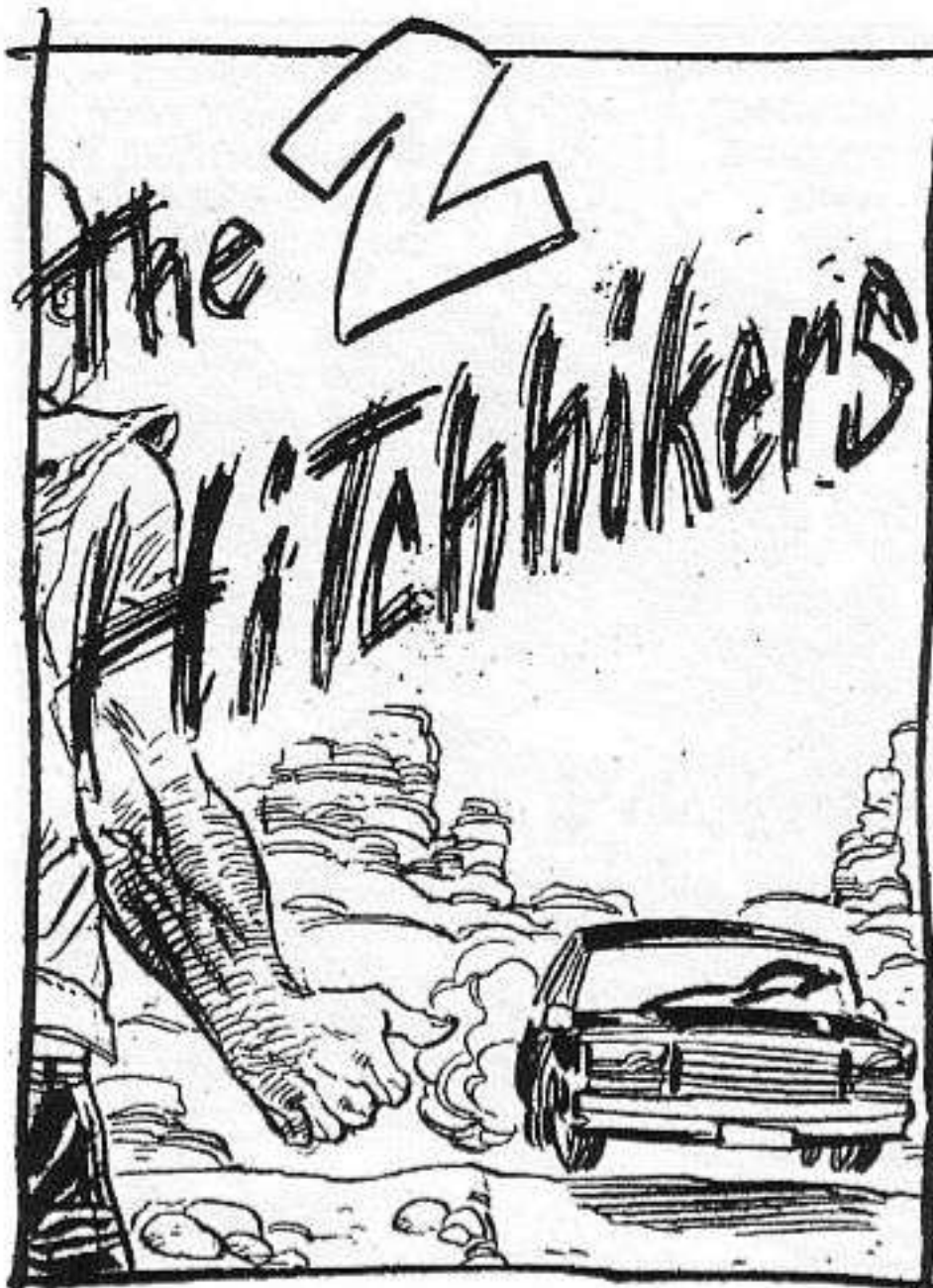


THE JOGGER'S BILLFOLD

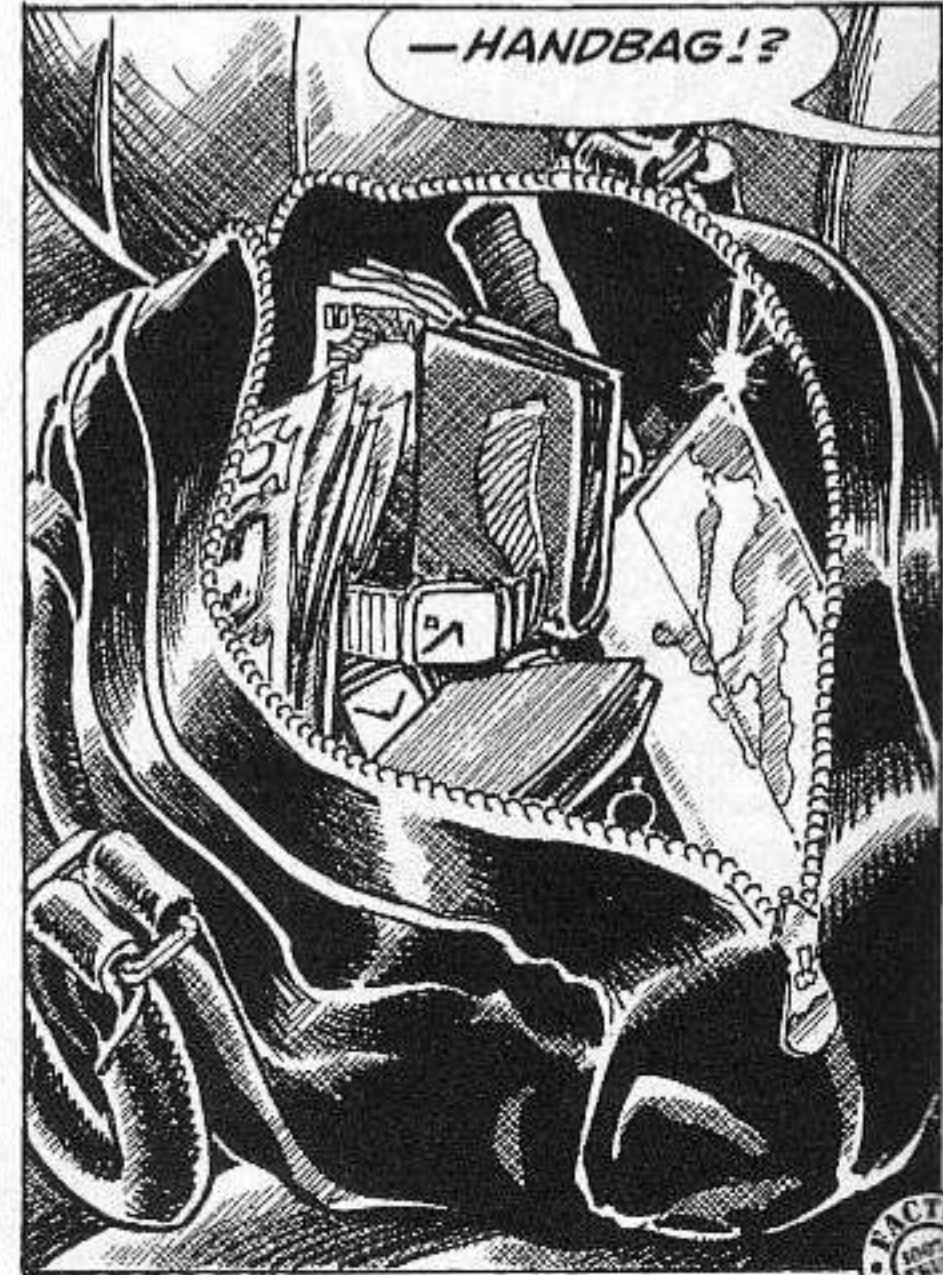


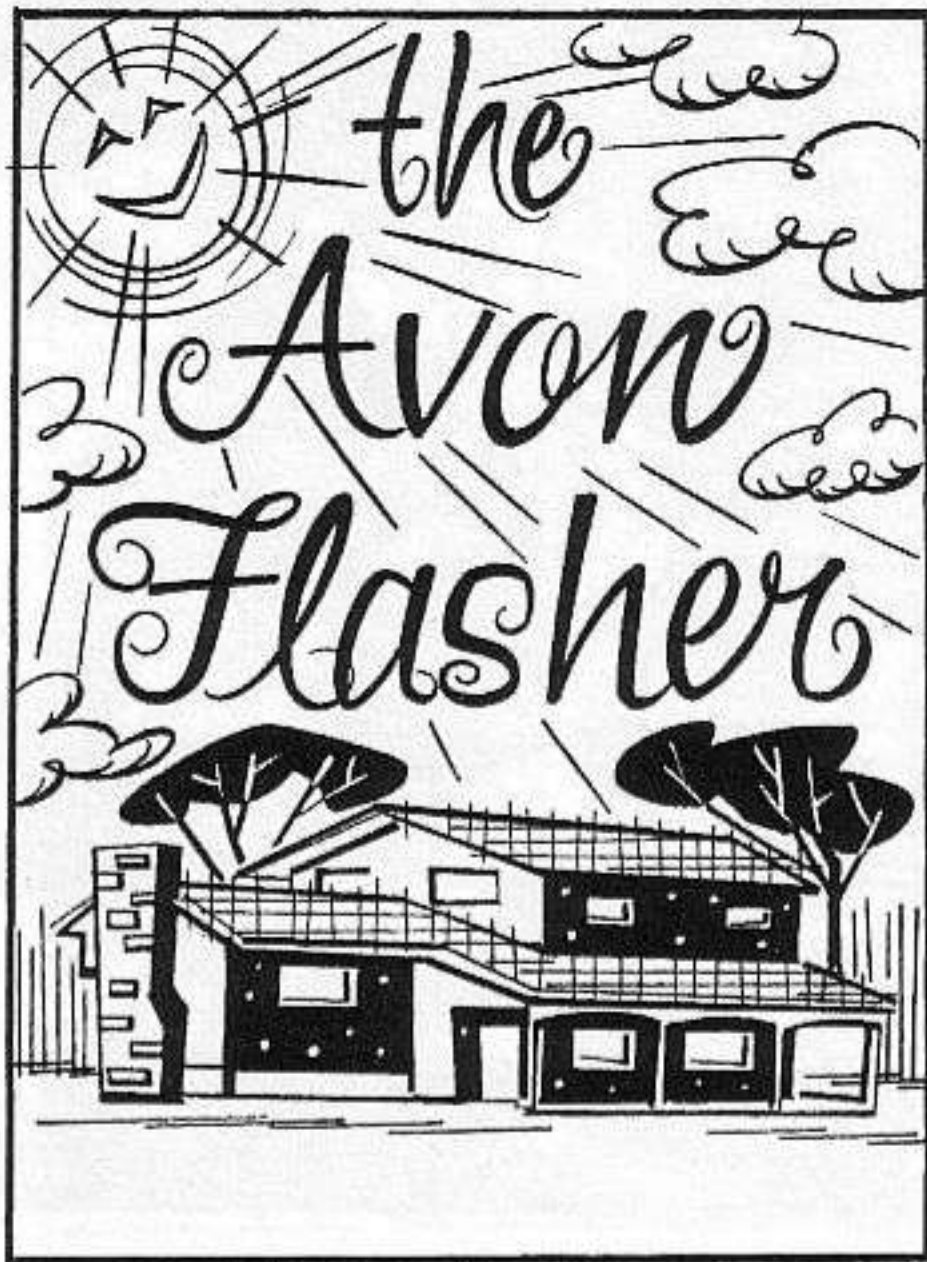


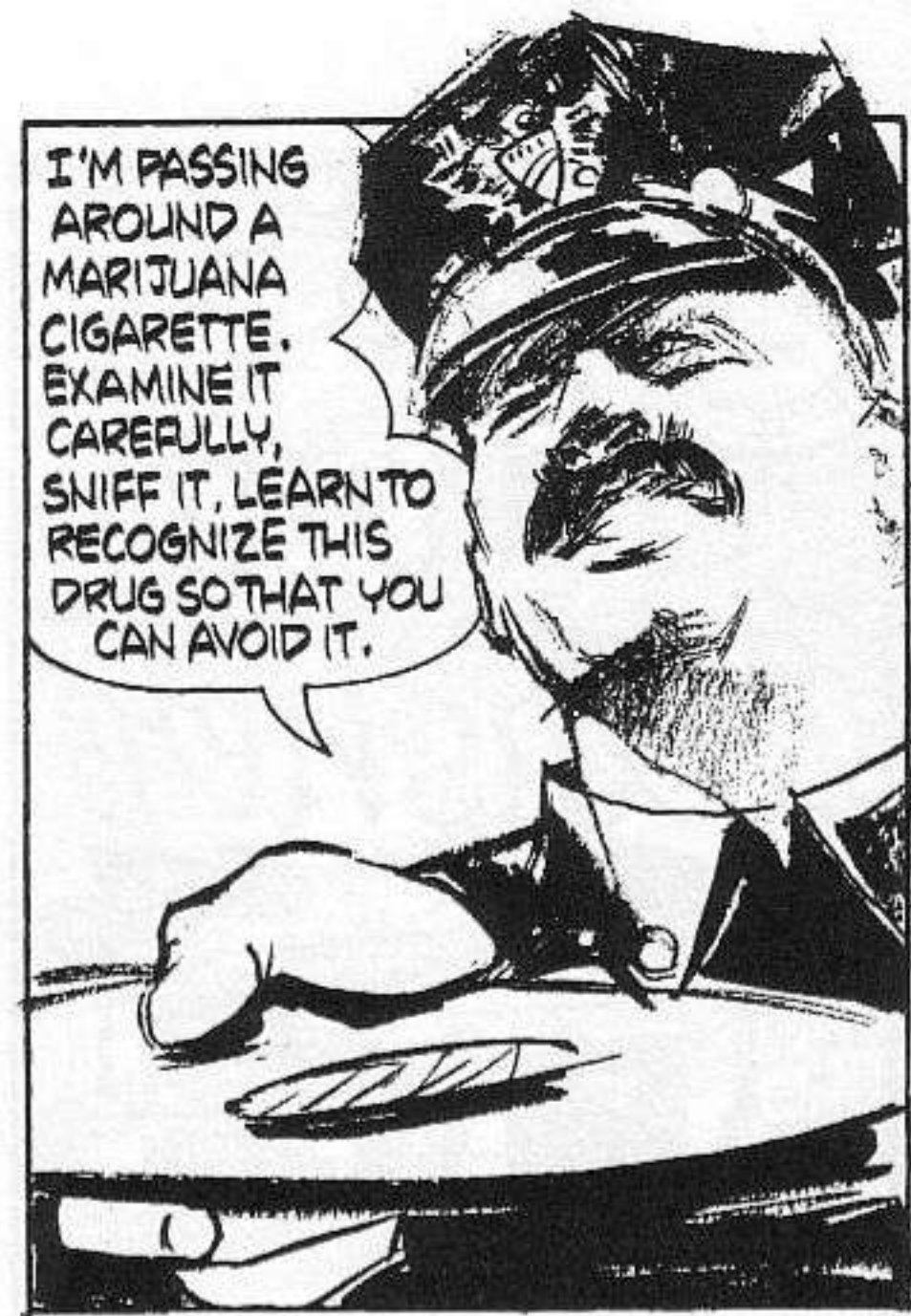
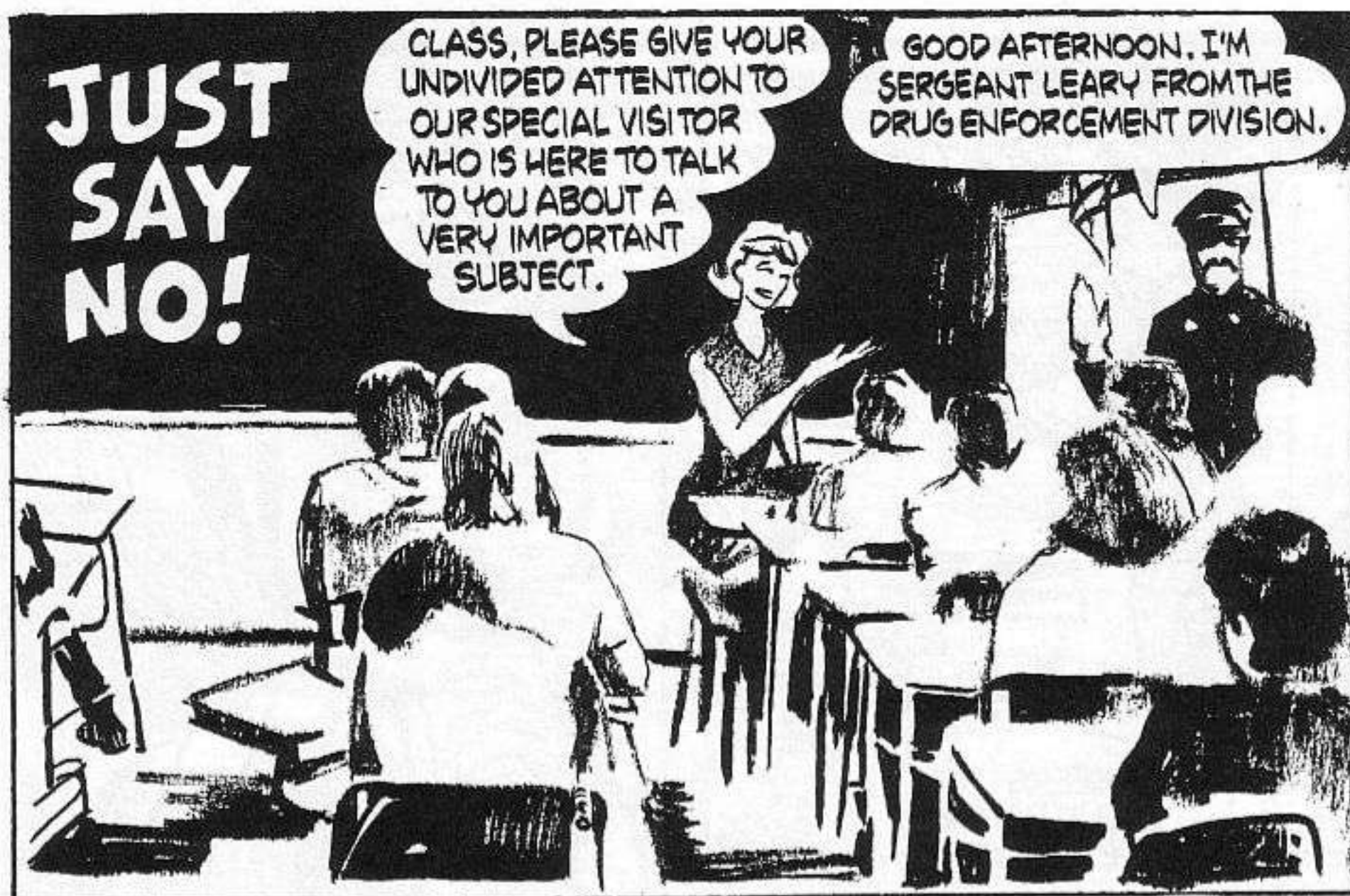




THE HAIRY-ARMED HITCHHIKER







"ONCE AN ADDICT IS 'HIGH' - THAT'S DRUG SLANG FOR 'UNDER THE INFLUENCE' - ALL CONTROL IS LOST..."



"FOR EXAMPLE, DRUG-CRAZED YOUTHS ON PCP HAVE BEEN KNOWN TO TEAR THEIR EYES OUT TO STOP THE HORRIBLE VISIONS..."



"IN THE 1960'S A GROUP OF COLLEGE STUDENTS ON LSD STARED INTO THE SUN UNTIL THEY WENT BLIND..."



"...AND THERE HAVE BEEN NUMEROUS CASES WHERE PARENTS HAVE BEEN SO HIGH ON DOPE THEY ACTUALLY COOKED THEIR CHILDREN!"



WHILE I'M ON THE SUBJECT OF PARENTS AND CHILDREN, THERE WAS A RECENT CASE IN MIAMI...

"...WHERE A WOMAN WAS STOPPED BY CUSTOMS BECAUSE HER CHILD APPEARED TO BE LIFELESS..."



"UPON CLOSER INSPECTION, THE BABY WAS FOUND TO BE DEAD AND USED BY ITS MOTHER TO SMUGGLE COCAINE!"



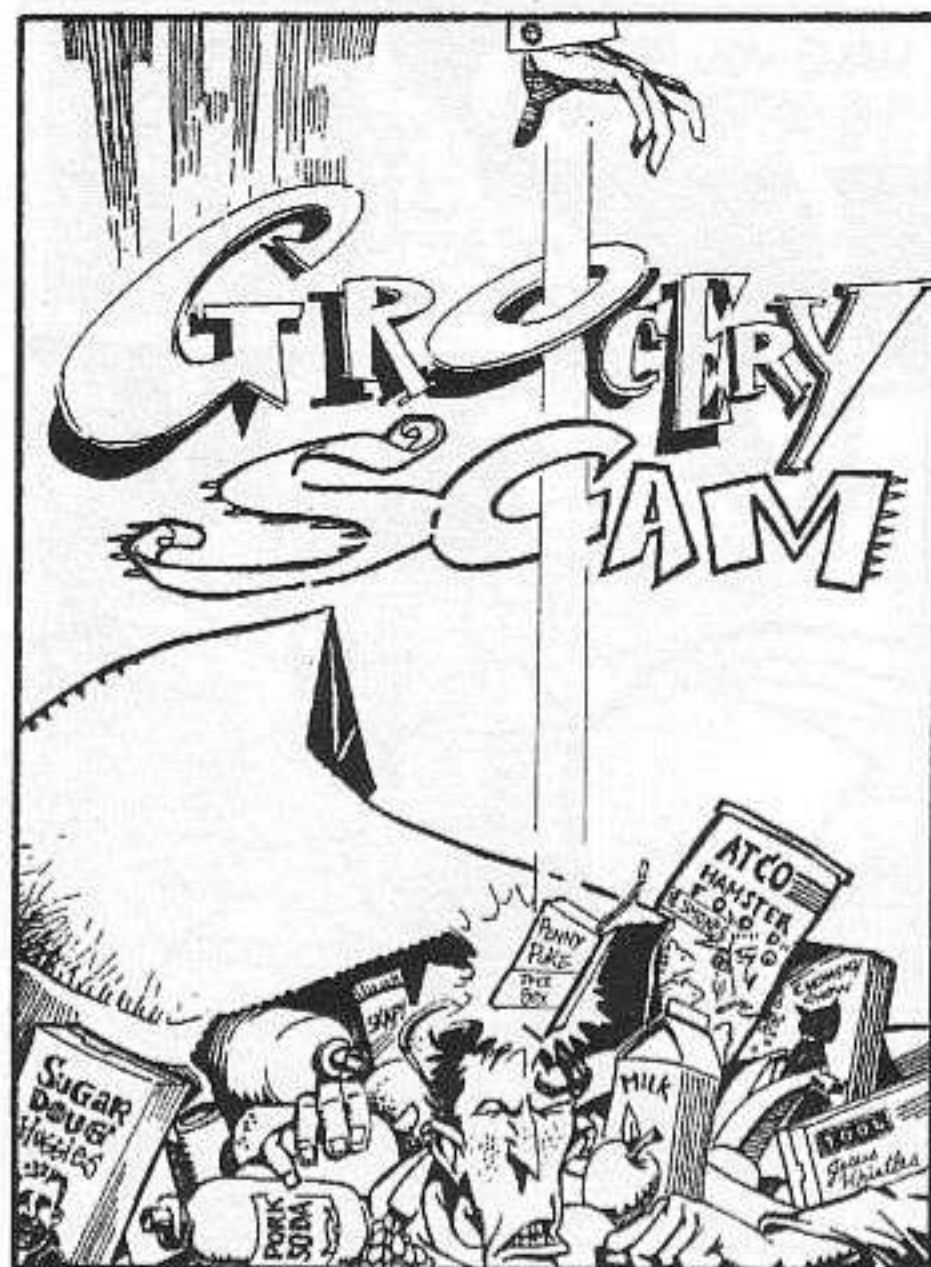
I'LL BE BACK NEXT WEEK TO SHOW YOU WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP. NOW, HAS EVERYONE HAD A CHANCE TO EXAMINE THE MARIJUANA CIGARETTE ON THE --

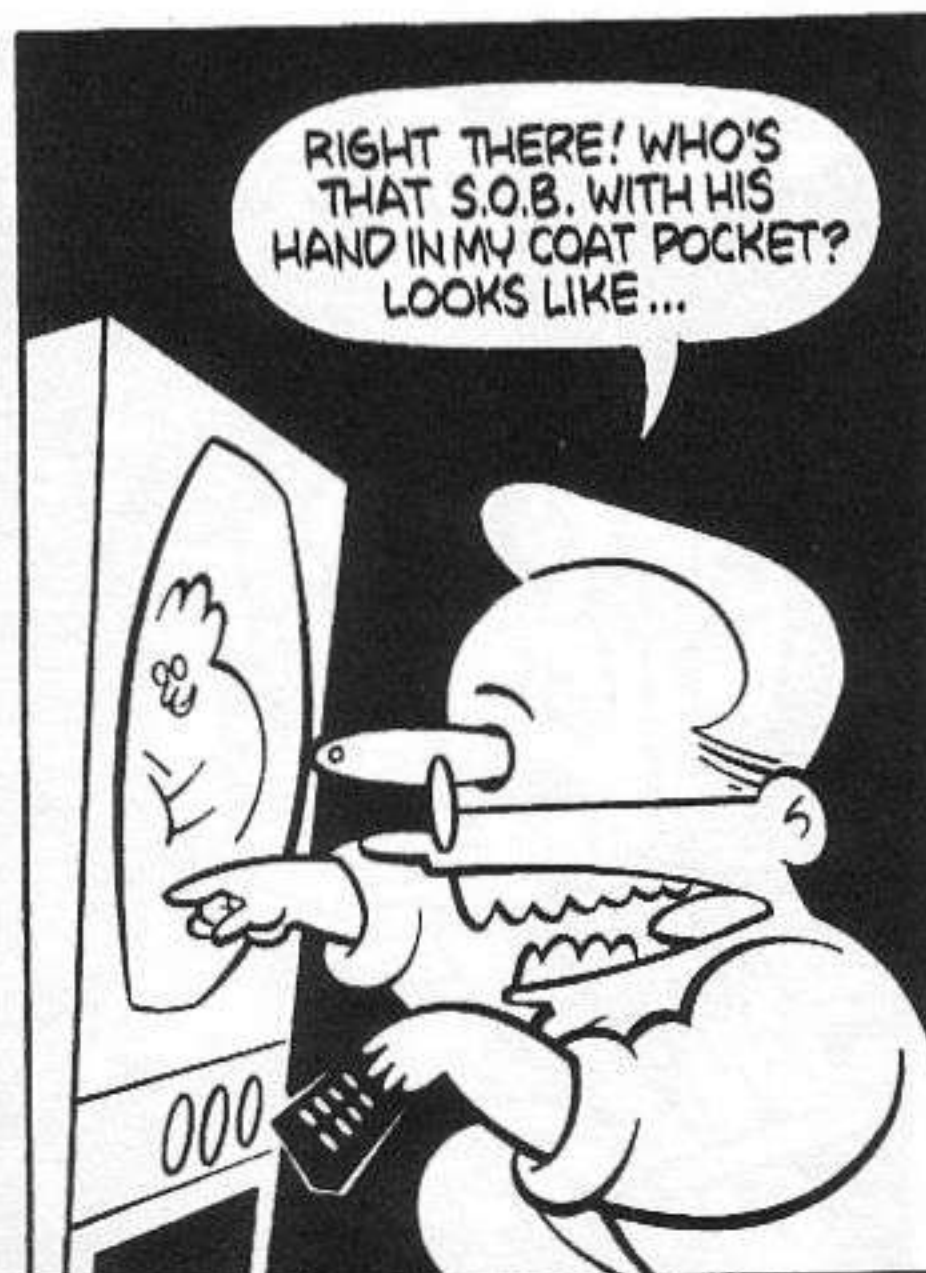
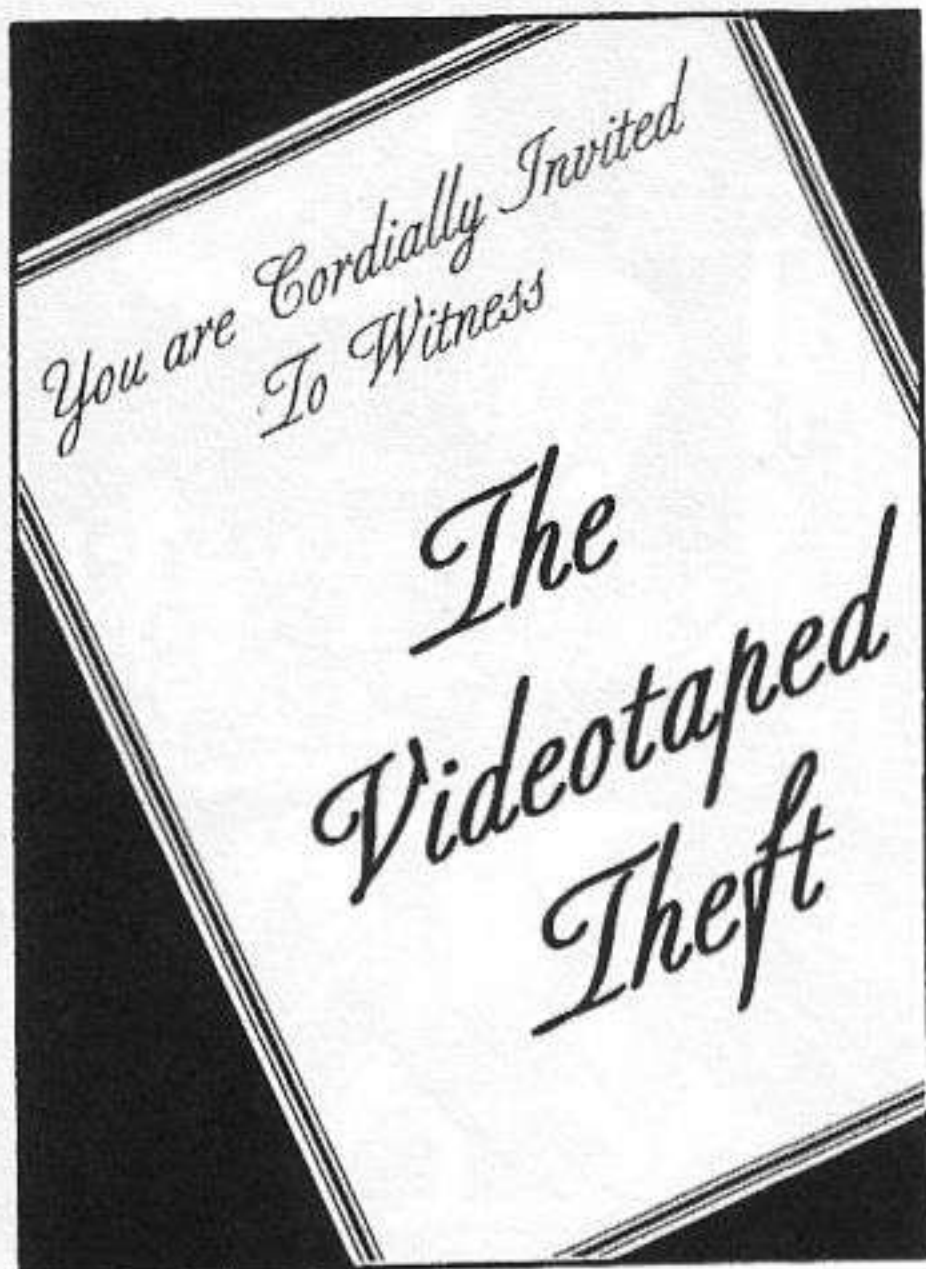


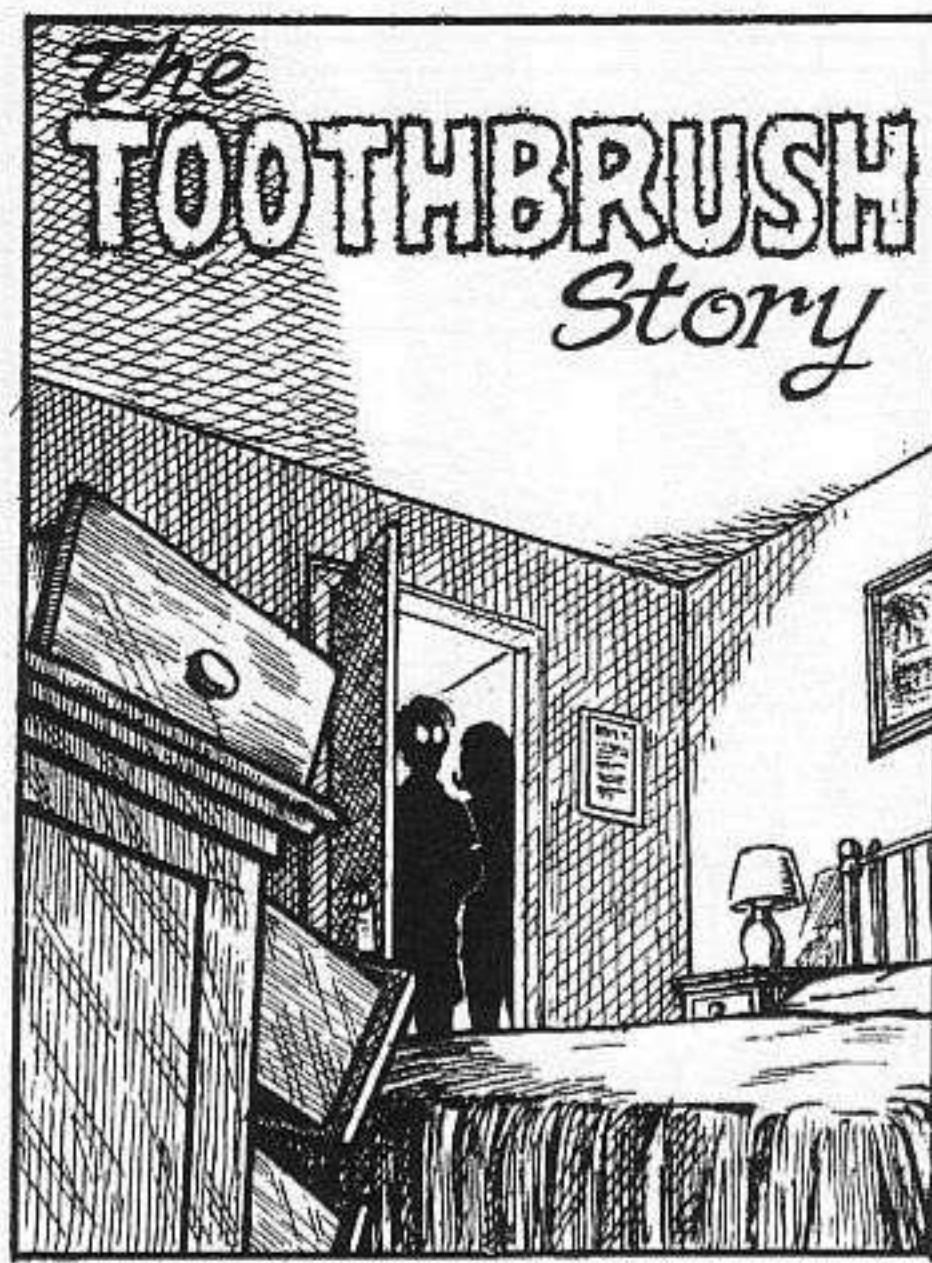
--TRAY I PASSED AROUND?!

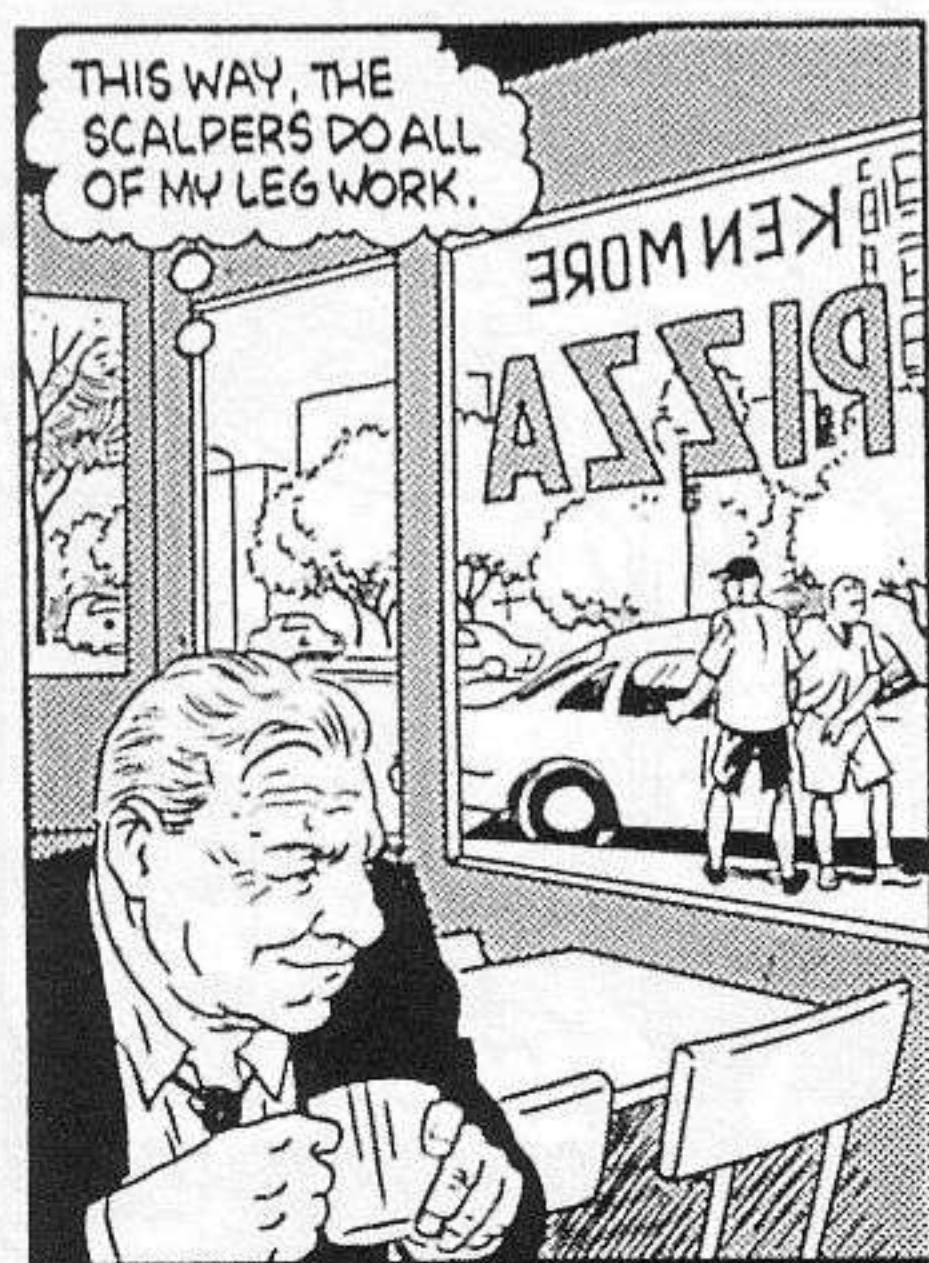
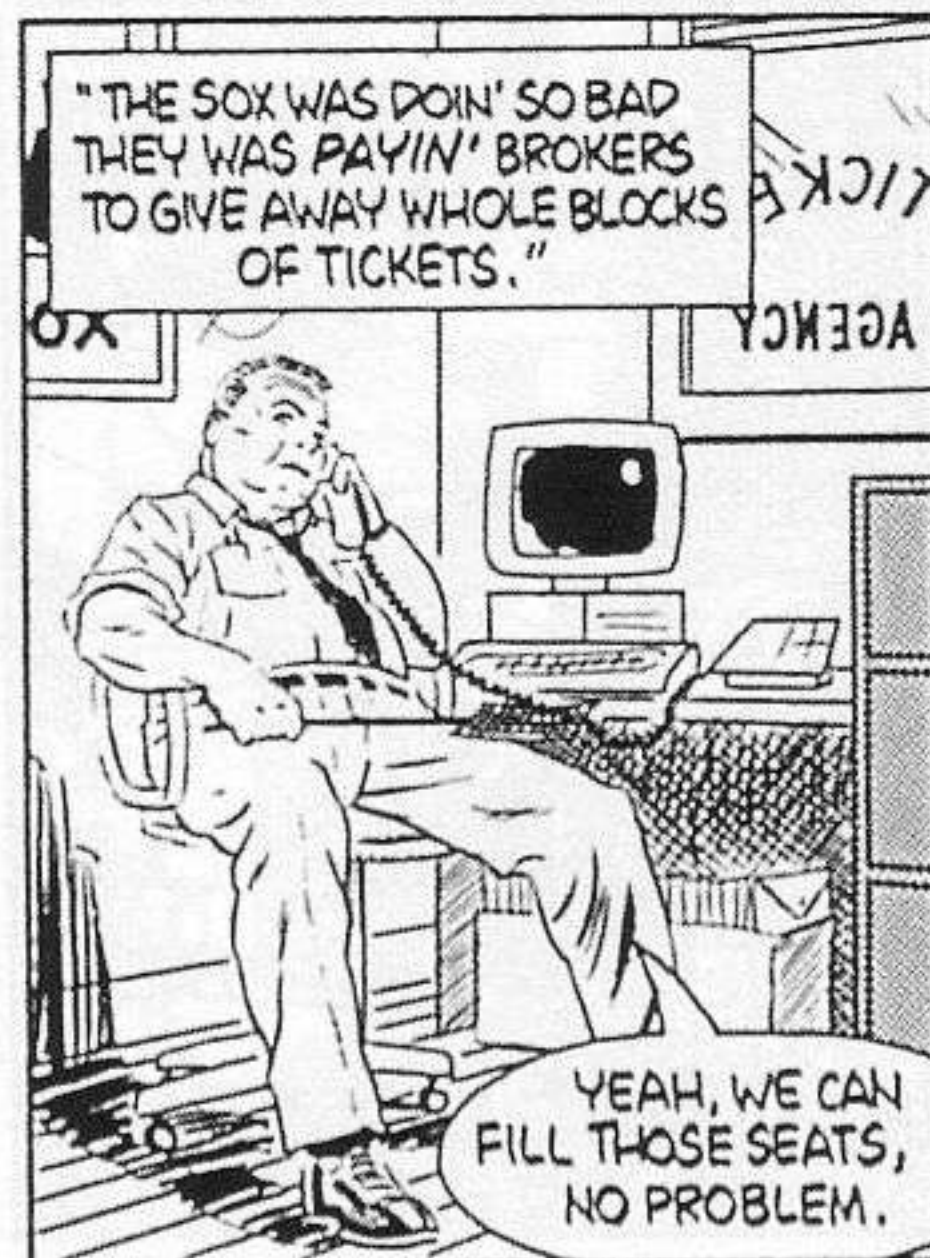












CHAPTER SEVEN

OCCUPATIONAL HAZARDS

BUSINESS, PROFESSIONAL AND GOVERNMENT LEGENDS

The world of work, products, and services has its legends too, often stories based on misunderstandings concerning how things function. Beyond problems involving contamination of processed foods such as candy (*page 173*) and soda (*page 175*), the organizationally-oriented legends also describe problems with things like the 911 emergency telephone system, and computerized space-travel navigation systems (*pages 191-192*). Still, some old non-technical favorites continue to circulate, notably the expensive cake-recipe story (*page 180*) and the one about the bedbugs in the Pullman car (*page 177*).

...SO THAT NO ONE CAN BUY OR
SELL UNLESS HE HAS THE MARK,
THAT IS...

THE NUMBER of the beast.

FOR IT IS
SIX HUNDRED
SIXTY-SIX.

I CAN'T BE BLAMED
FOR THE MISTAKES YOU
PEOPLE MAKE.

IT'S ALL RIGHT
HERE IN THE BOOK,
REVELATIONS 13.

"THEN ONE OF THEIR BOYS IN THE
ART DEPARTMENT CAME UP WITH
THIS MOON AND STARS DEAL..."

NOT A VERY GOOD
LIKENESS, BUT I LOVE
THE BACKWARDS
SIXES IN THE
BEARD--

"WHEN I MADE THE DEAL WITH
THOSE PROCTER & GAMBLE BOYS
I TOLD 'EM, THE RULES ARE THE
RULES, YOU GOTTA MARK
THE PRODUCT.

--A NICE
TOUCH.

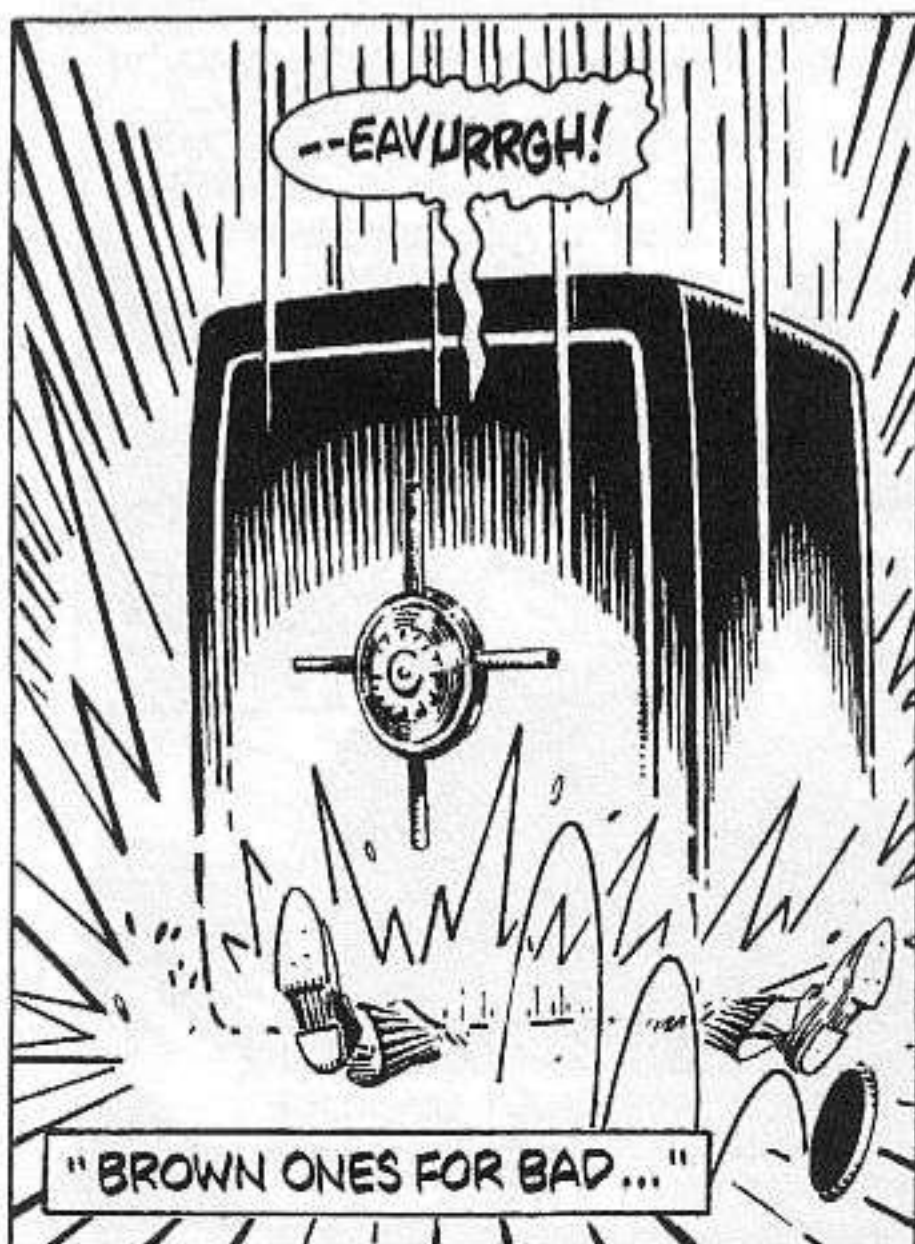
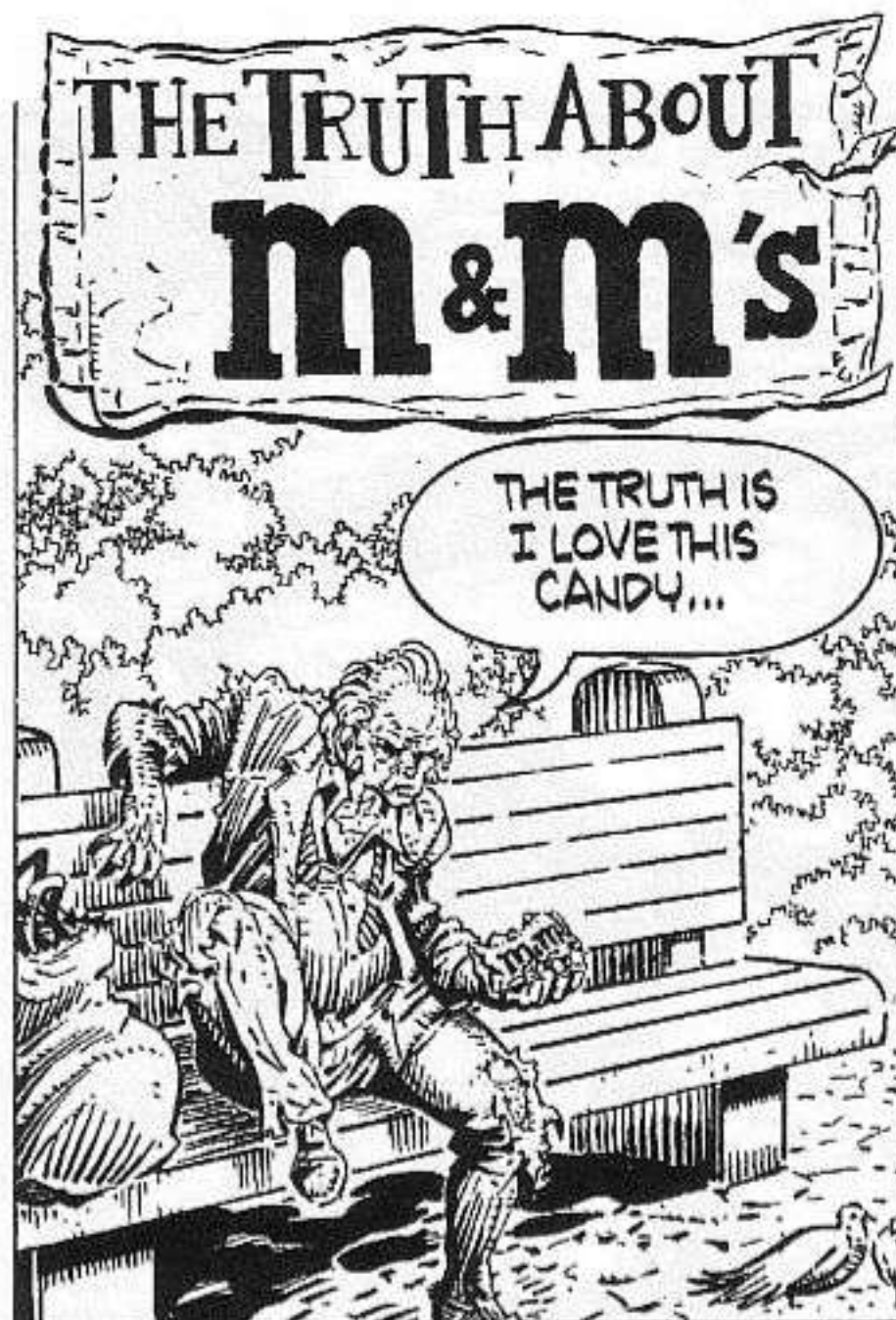
SO, NEXT TIME YOU'RE
SOAPING UP YOUR ARM-
PITS WITH IVORY, CHEW
ON THIS...

... IF THE IVORY SOAP
IS 99 44/100% PURE,
WHAT'S THE OTHER
56/100%, HUH?

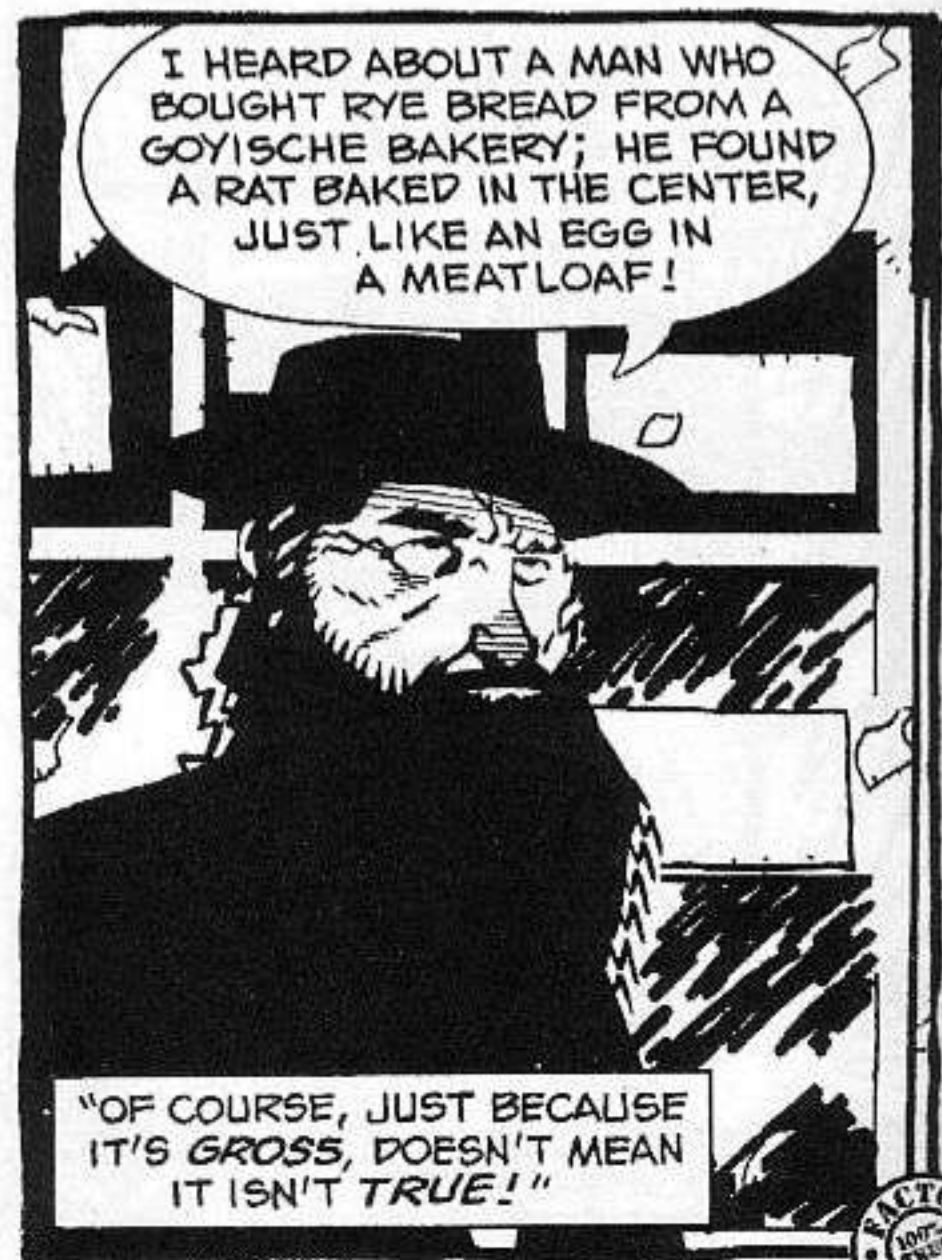
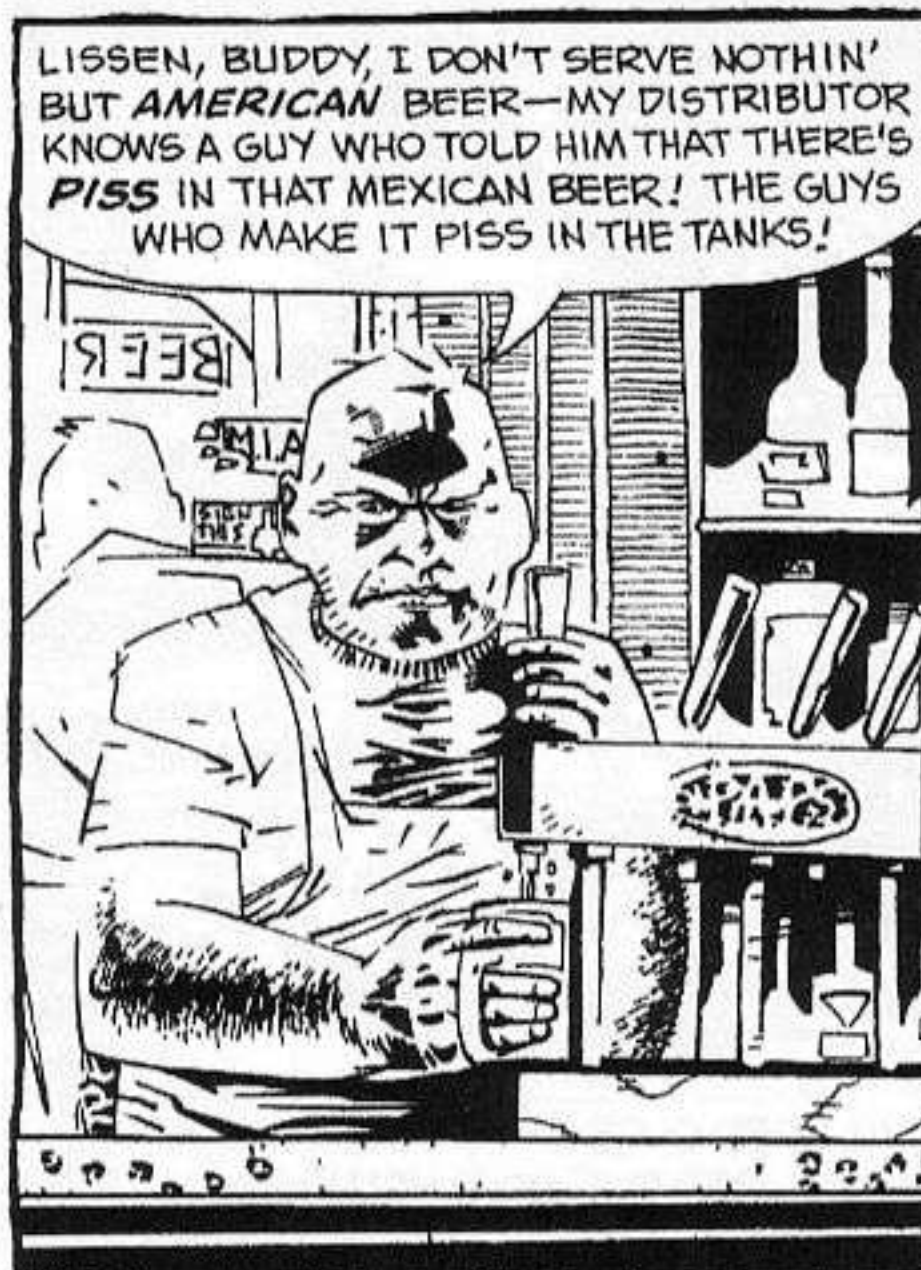
"AND, IF YOU
CONNECT THE
STARS ...
JACKPOT!
MORE SIXES!"

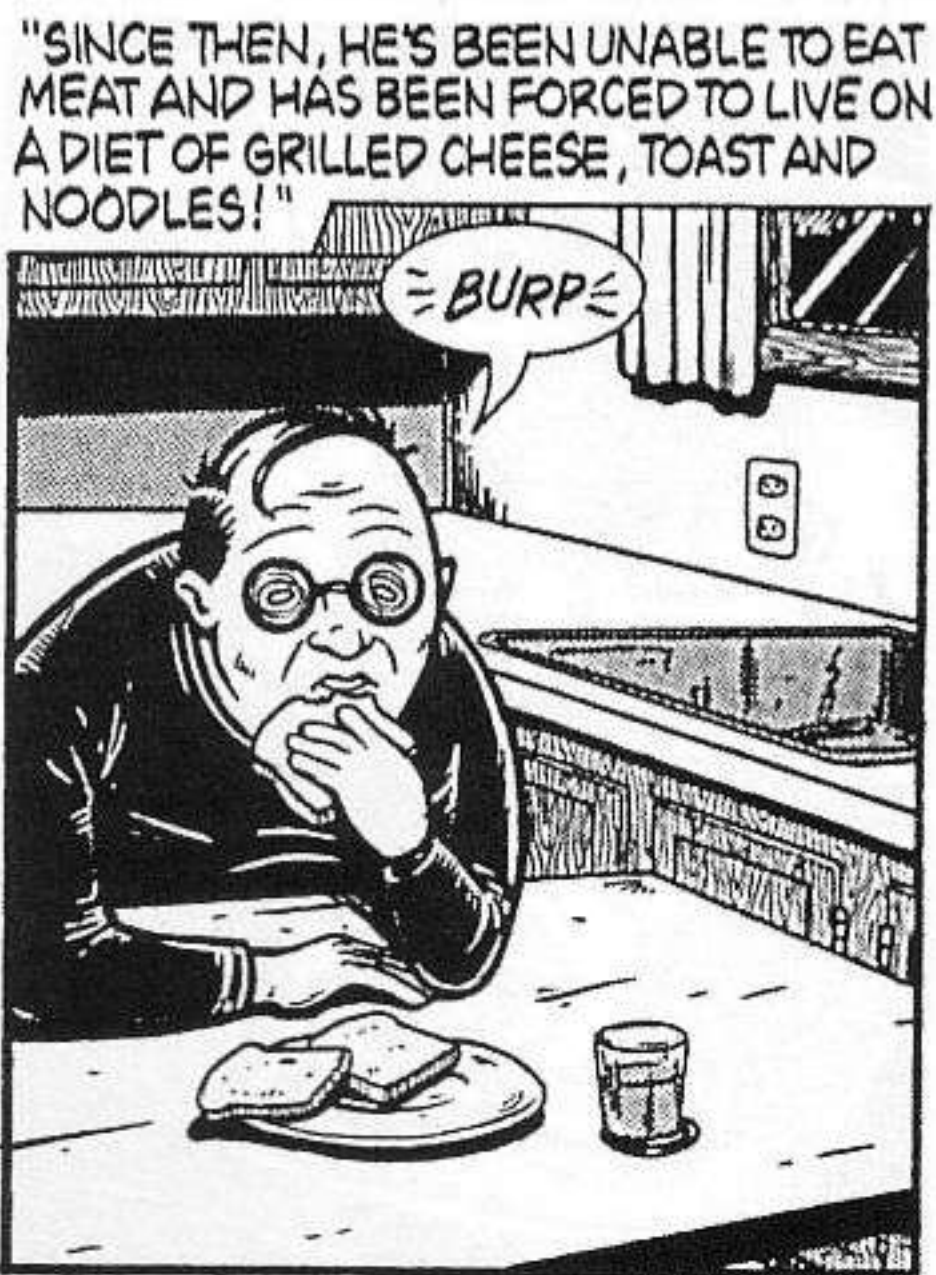
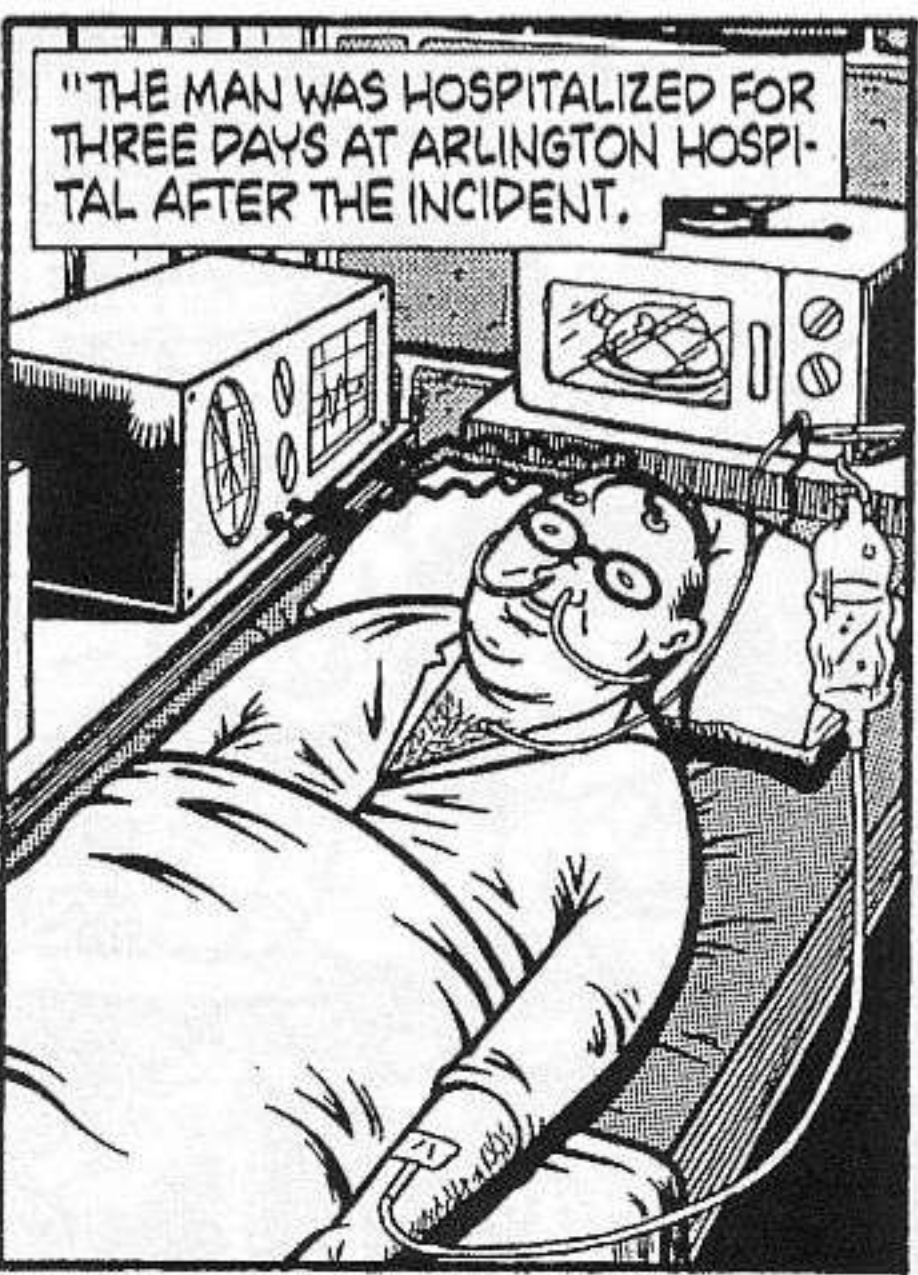
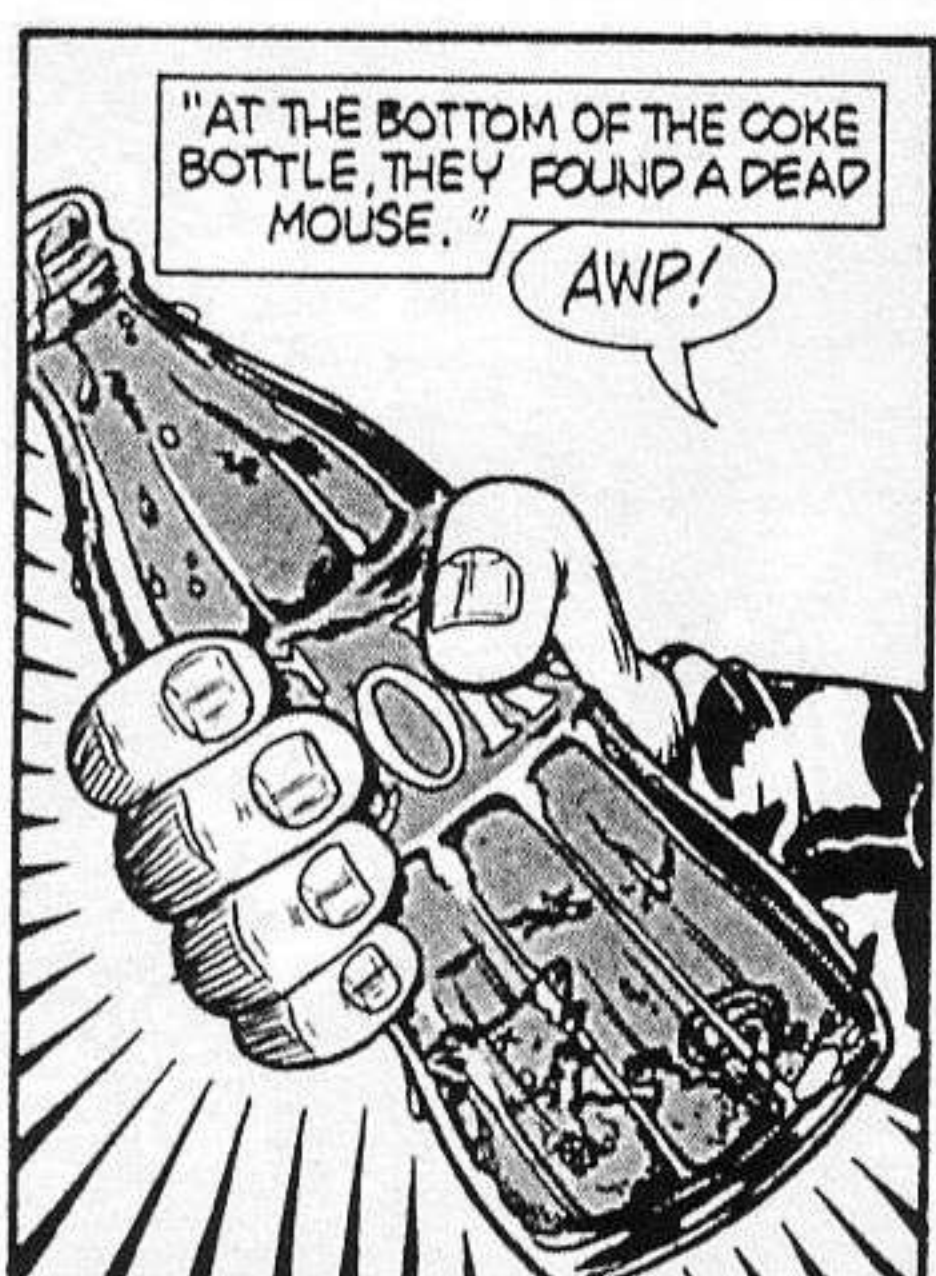
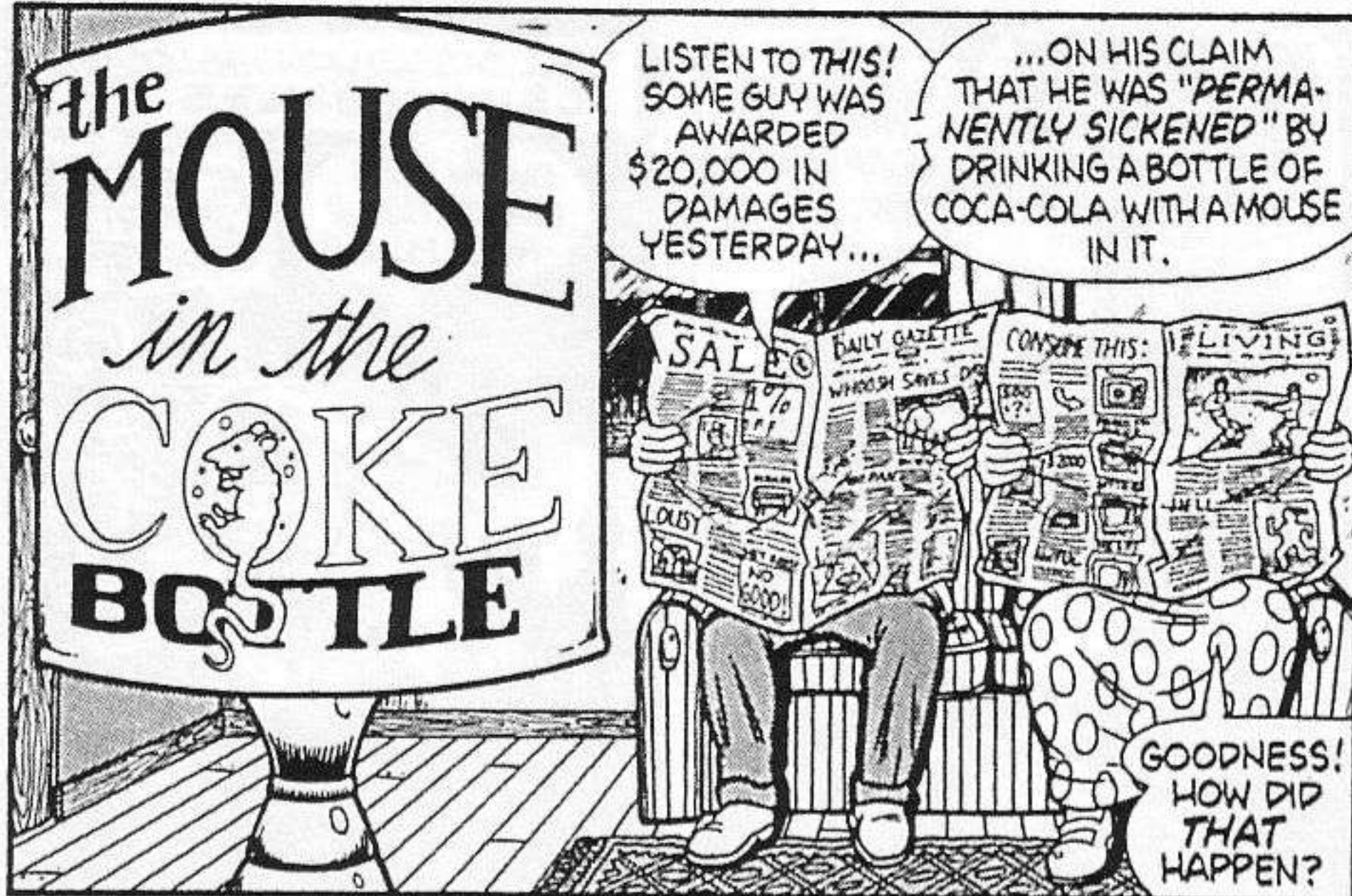
I DON'T KNOW
ABOUT YOU...

... BUT ME? I GET
MY KICKS ON
ROUTE 666!



GROSS-OUT GOSSIP

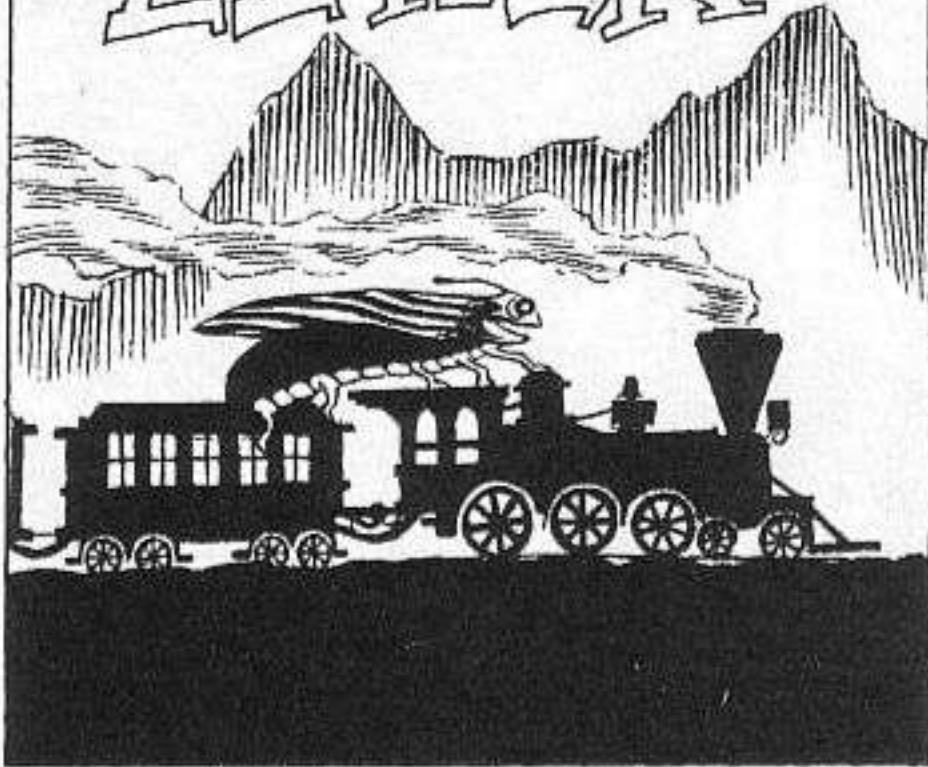




the KILLER CARPET



THE BEDBUG LETTER



A CERTAIN PHINEAS P. JENKINS, A SALESMAN OF PIG-IRON PRODUCTS, WAS TRAVELING FROM CHICAGO TO CLEVELAND ON THE NIGHT OF MARCH 4, 1889.



HE LATER WROTE TO GEORGE M. PULLMAN, PRESIDENT OF THE CAR FIRM, ABOUT THE NIGHT HE'D ENDURED, BEING "VICIOUSLY ATTACKED BY RAVENOUS BEDBUGS."



WITHIN SEVERAL DAYS HE RECEIVED A REPLY...

I CANNOT BEGIN TO EXPRESS HOW EMBARRASSED I AM TO LEARN OF YOUR MOST UNFORTUNATE EXPERIENCE. IT IS INDEED AN 'OUT-RAGE.' ALLOW ME TO TELL YOU WHAT WE INTEND TO DO ABOUT IT.



THE CAR IN QUESTION WAS LOCATED AND REMOVED TO A REMOTE AREA UNTIL BEING TRANSPORTED TO OUR MAINTENANCE FACILITY AT ALTON, ILLINOIS.



THERE IT HAS BEEN STRIPPED OF ALL FURNISHINGS. THE BEDDING, UPHOLSTERY, CURTAINS, CARPET AND ALL OTHER COMBUSTIBLE MATERIALS HAVE BEEN BURNED.



THE FIXTURES HAVE BEEN SCRUBBED DOWN WITH CARBOLIC ACID. BY THE TIME YOU READ THIS LETTER, THE CAR WILL HAVE BEEN FUMIGATED.

THE RESPONSIBLE PERSONNEL HAVE BEEN ASSIGNED TO REFRESHER TRAINING IN SANITATION.



WELL, THEY CERTAINLY AIM TO PLEASE! THEY COULDN'T HAVE BEEN MORE --

EH?



WHAT'S THIS?

Sarah,
Send this S.O.B.
the bedbug
letter.

DIETS? I'VE TRIED 'EM ALL! NOTHING'S WORKED SO FAR, BUT THE STRUGGLE CONTINUES!

'COURSE, THERE'S A LIMIT TO HOW FAR I'LL GO! MY BODY'S A DELICATE INSTRUMENT, SO I'M CHOOSY ABOUT WHAT I PUT INTO IT!

WHICH IS WHY I NEVER TRIED--

The TAPEWORM DIET

"A FEW YEARS AGO THERE WAS A COMPANY WHO PUT OUT SURE-FIRE DIET PILLS, GUARANTEED TO MAKE YOU LOSE WEIGHT IN NO TIME."

"PEOPLE BEGAN TO TAKE THESE PILLS, AND BEFORE THEY KNEW IT THEY WERE LOSING WEIGHT."

"BUT AFTER A FEW WEEKS, THESE PEOPLE BEGAN TO LOSE TOO MUCH WEIGHT..."

"...SO THE GOVERNMENT STARTED AN INTENSE INVESTIGATION. THEY OPENED THE PILLS AND FOUND THE HEADS OF TAPEWORMS."

BLECCHH!

"TAPEWORMS ARE HARD TO GET RID OF, SO THEY HAD A TEST SUBJECT STARVE HIMSELF FOR DAYS."

MMMMM! MILK!

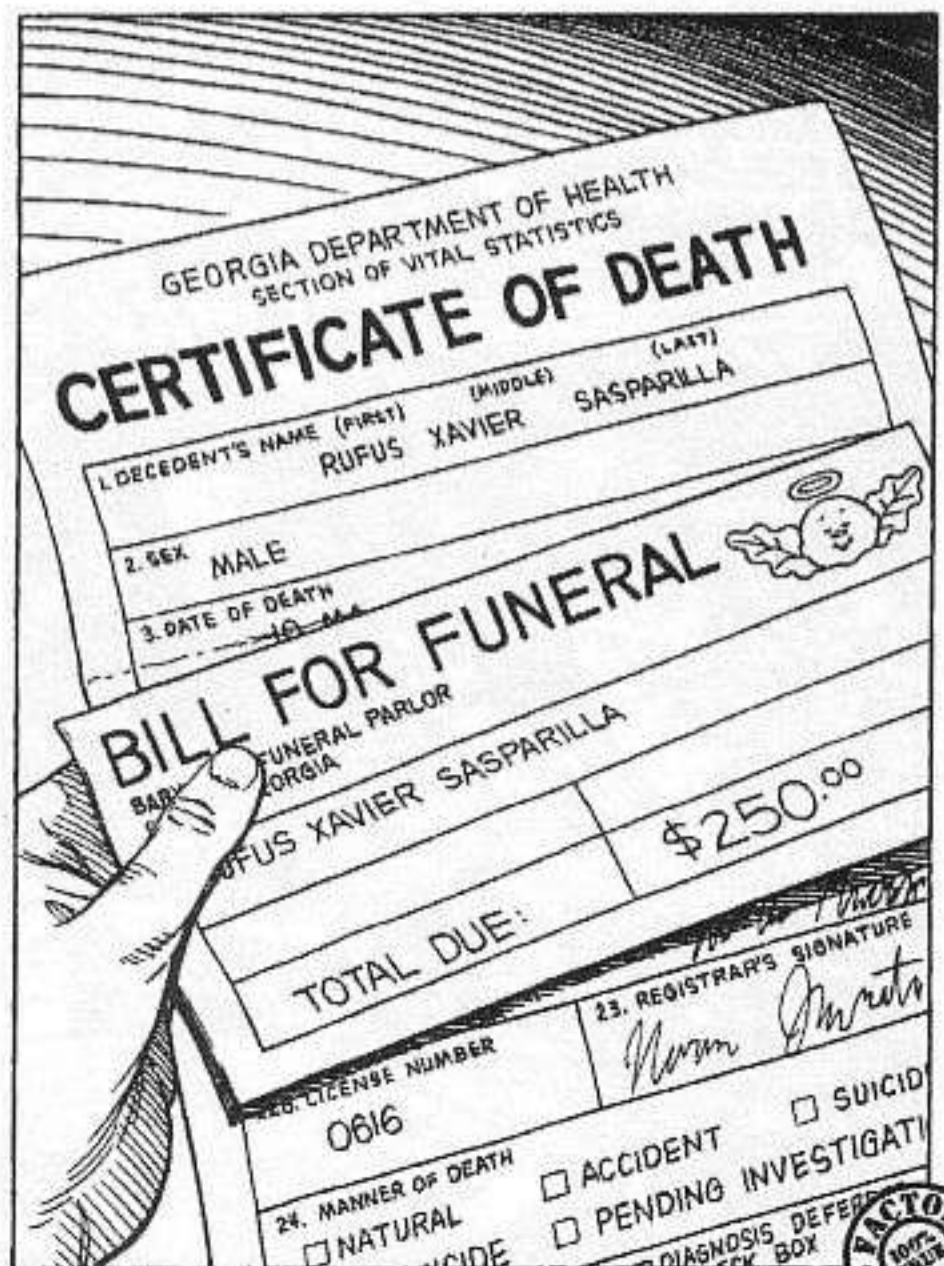
MMMMM! MILK!

"AFTER A WHILE THE TAPEWORM BEGAN TO COME UP HIS THROAT BECAUSE IT SMELLED THE MILK."

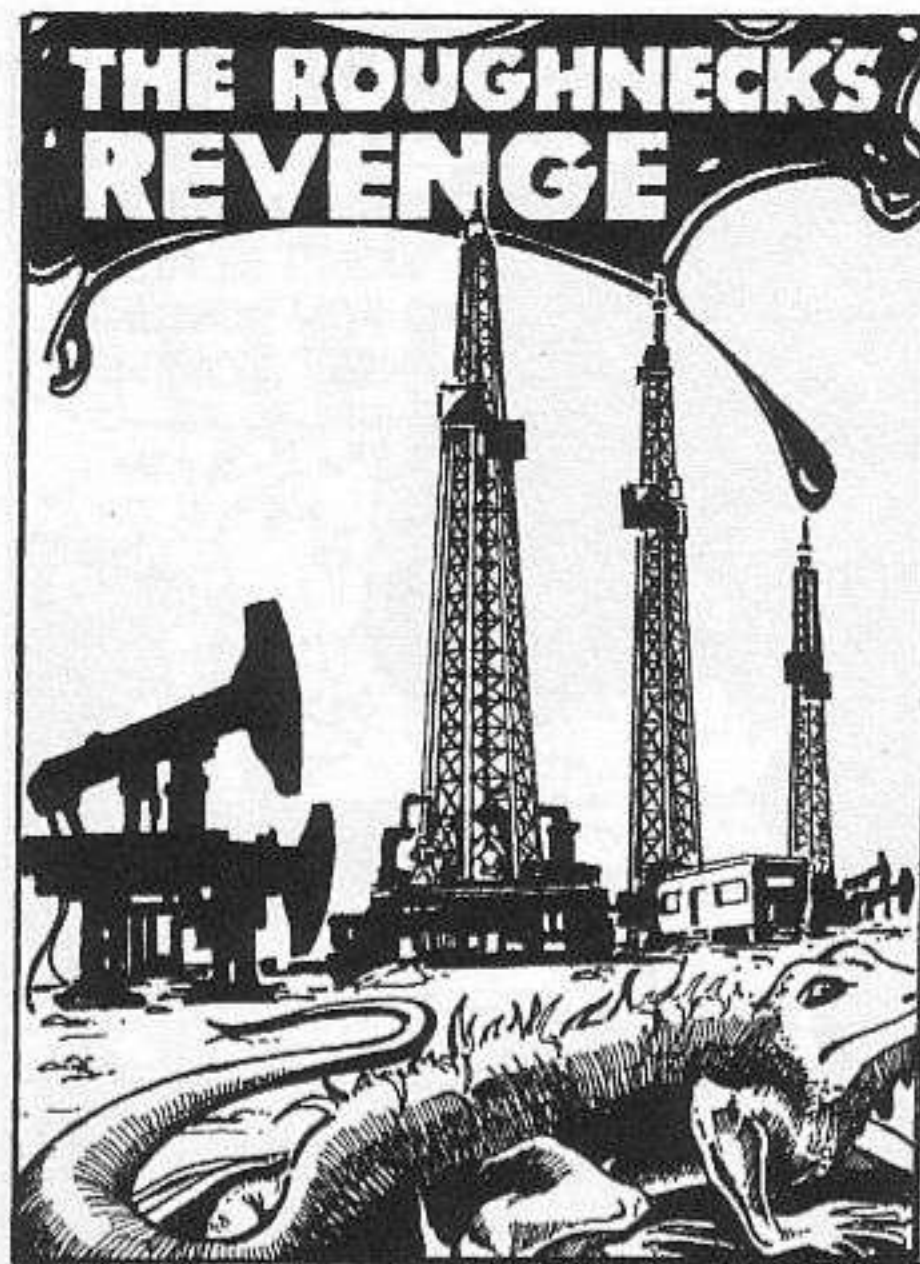
"THEY KEPT MOVING THE BOWL FURTHER AWAY UNTIL THE TAPEWORM WAS COMPLETELY OUT."

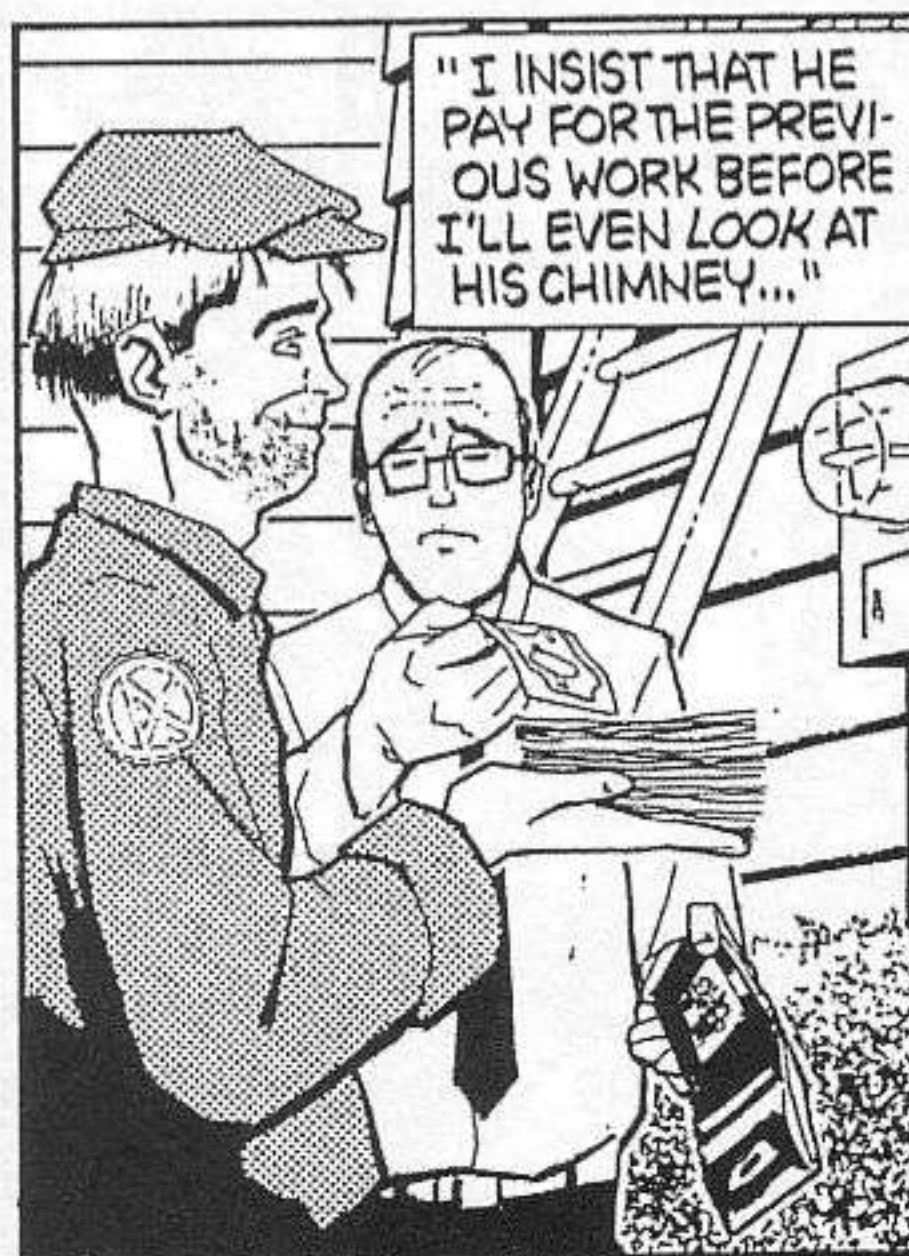
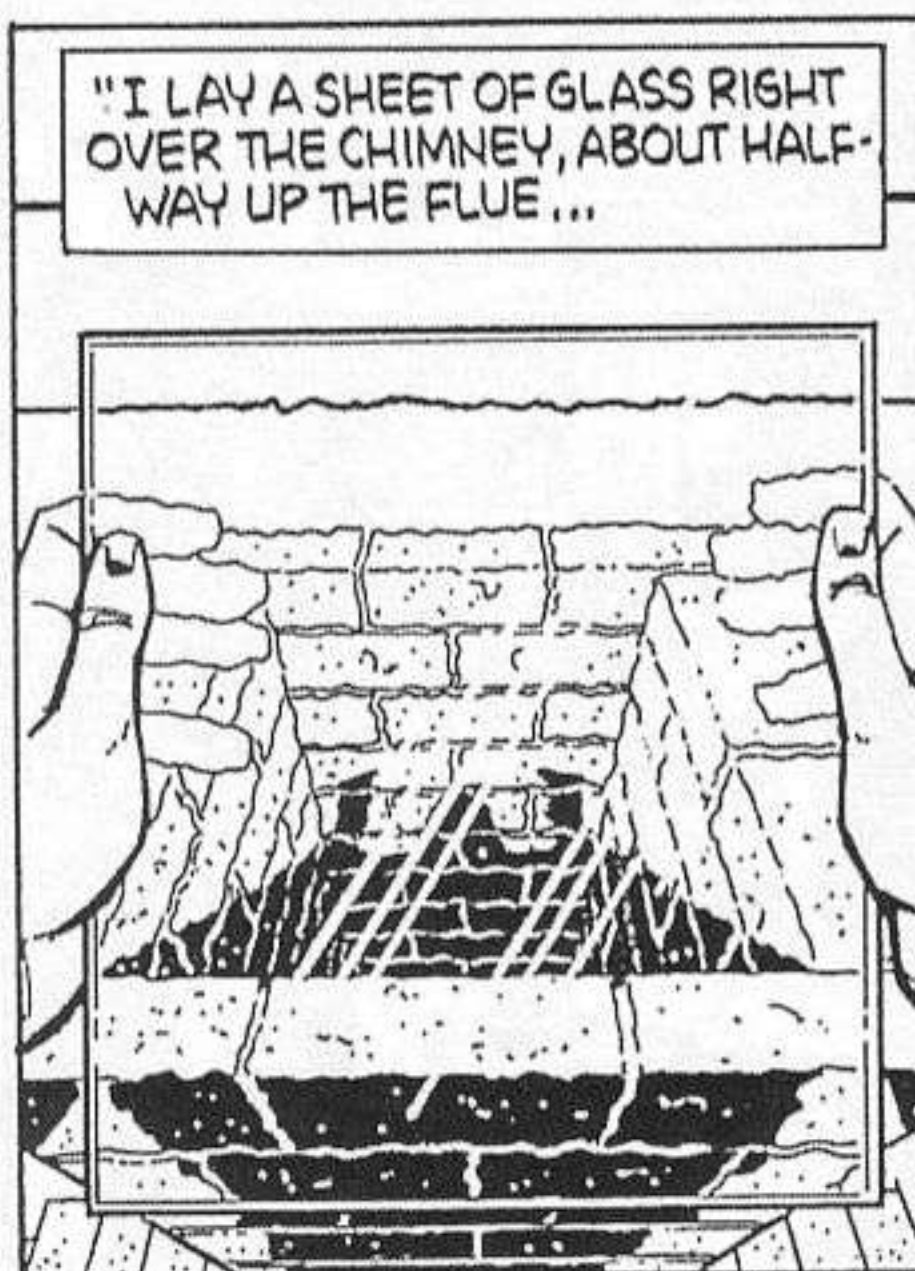
YAH!

To order your two-week supply of this new miracle diet product, simply send \$19.95 to
INCHMEAL
 P.O. Box U8-1
 Parasite Valley, Wisconsin

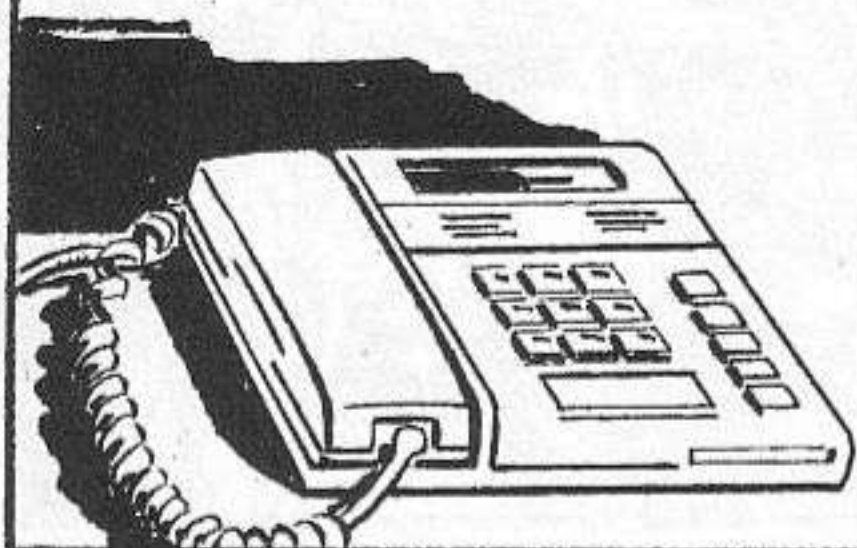


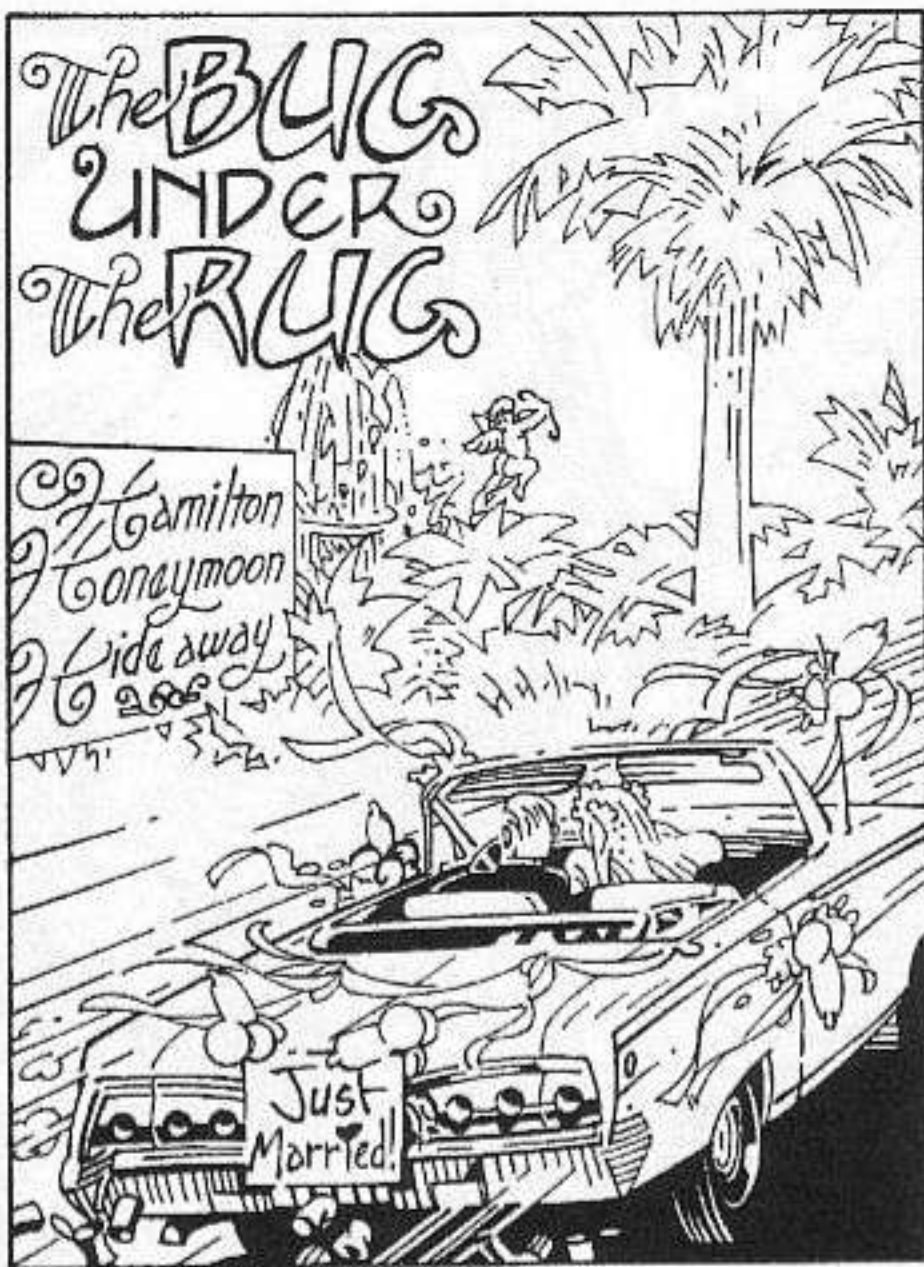




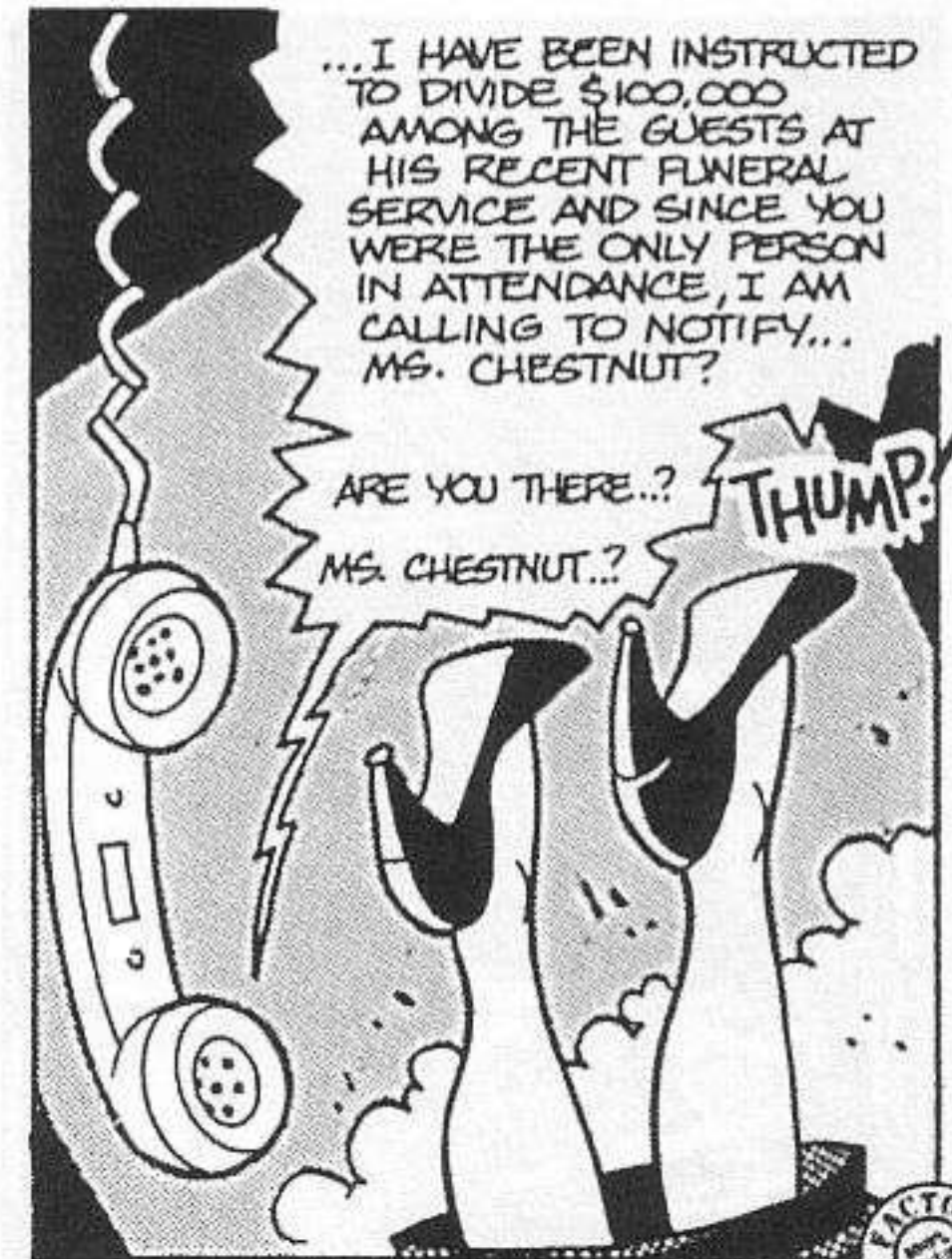
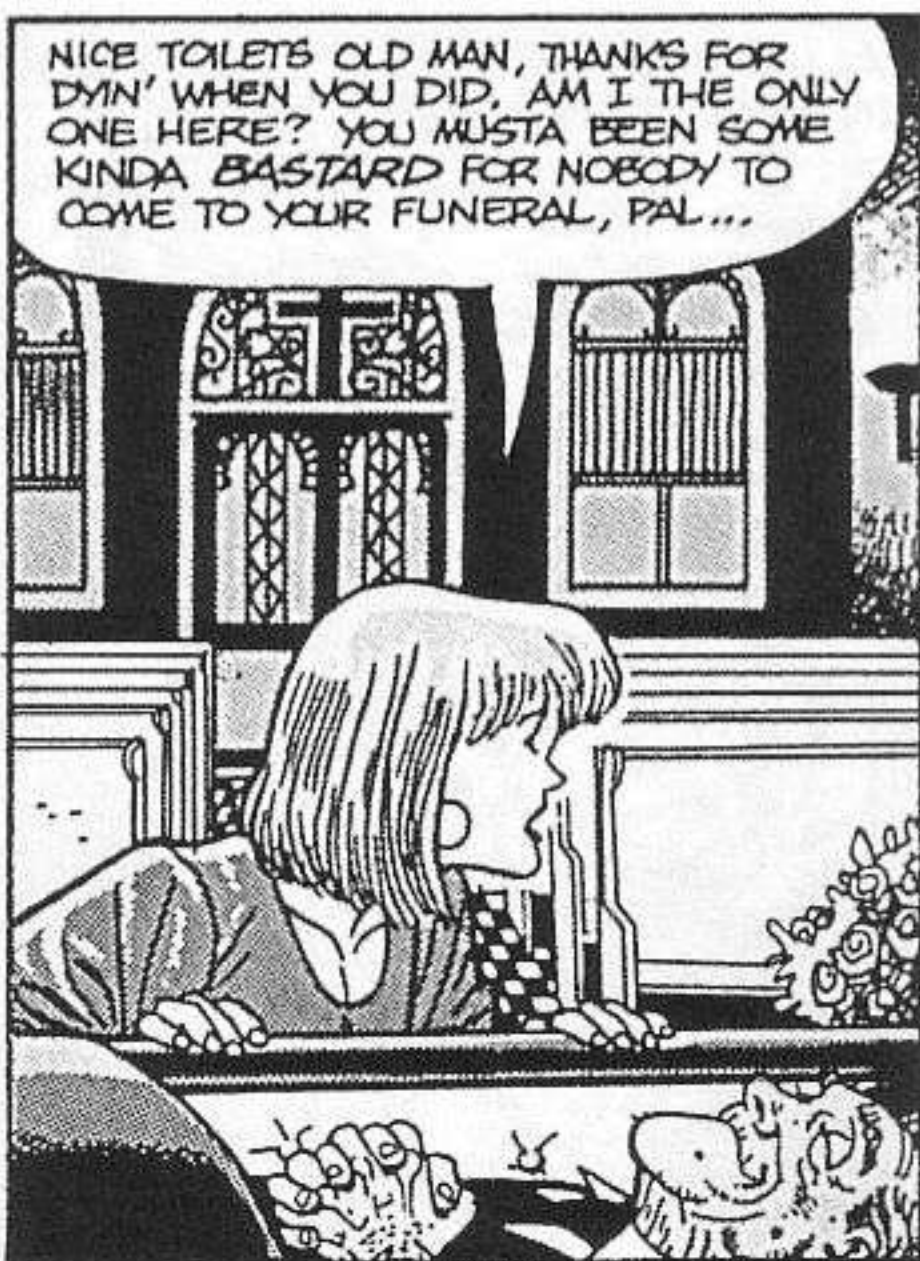
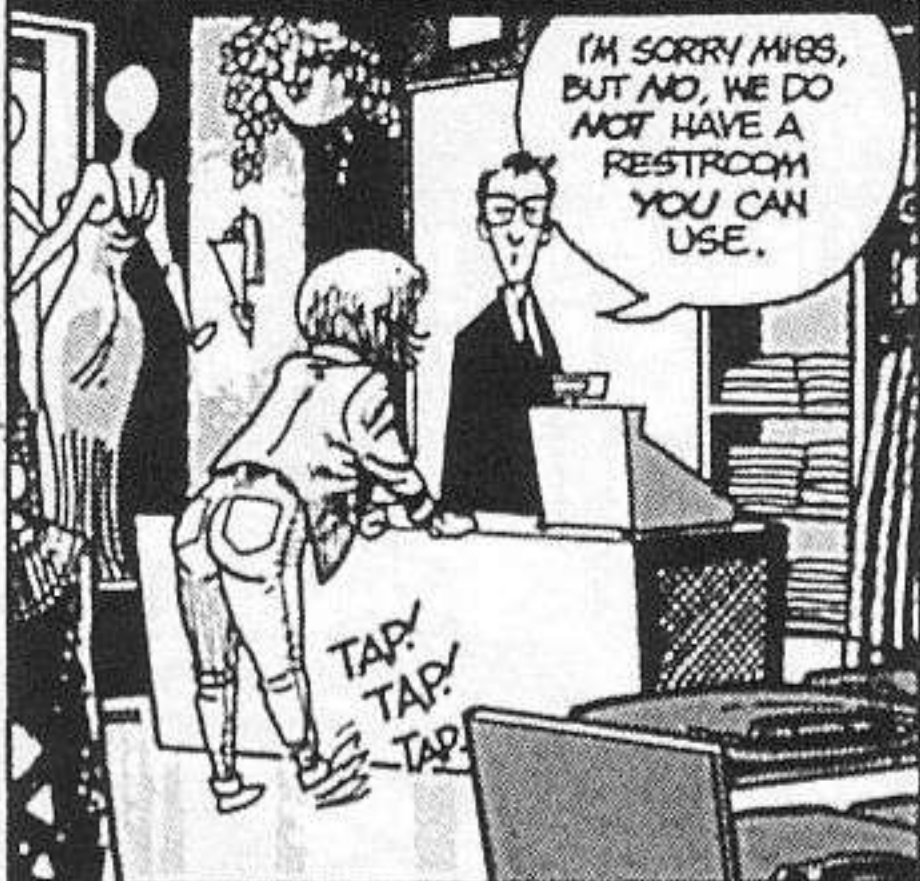


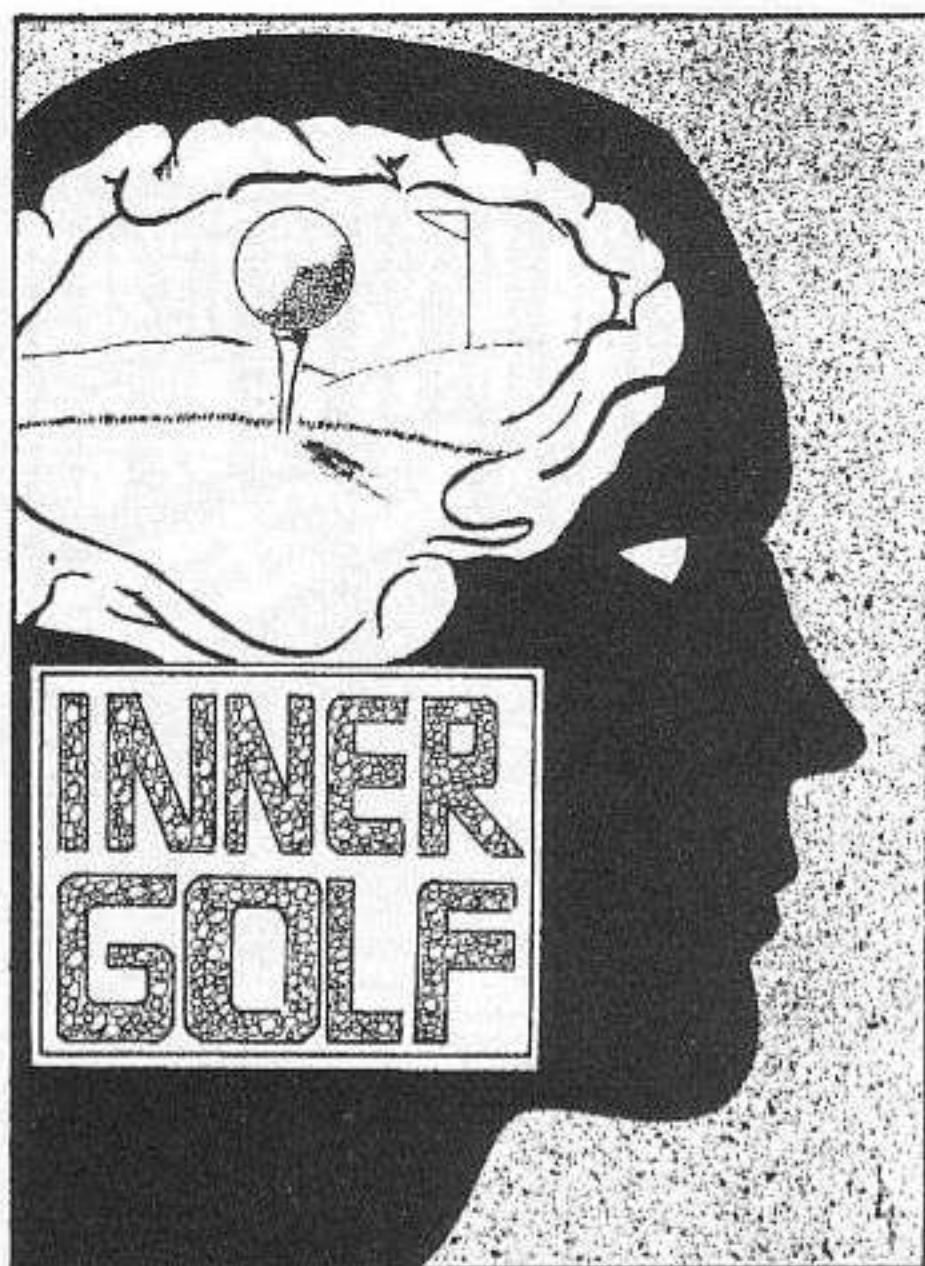
THE LOVER'S TELEPHONE REVENGE

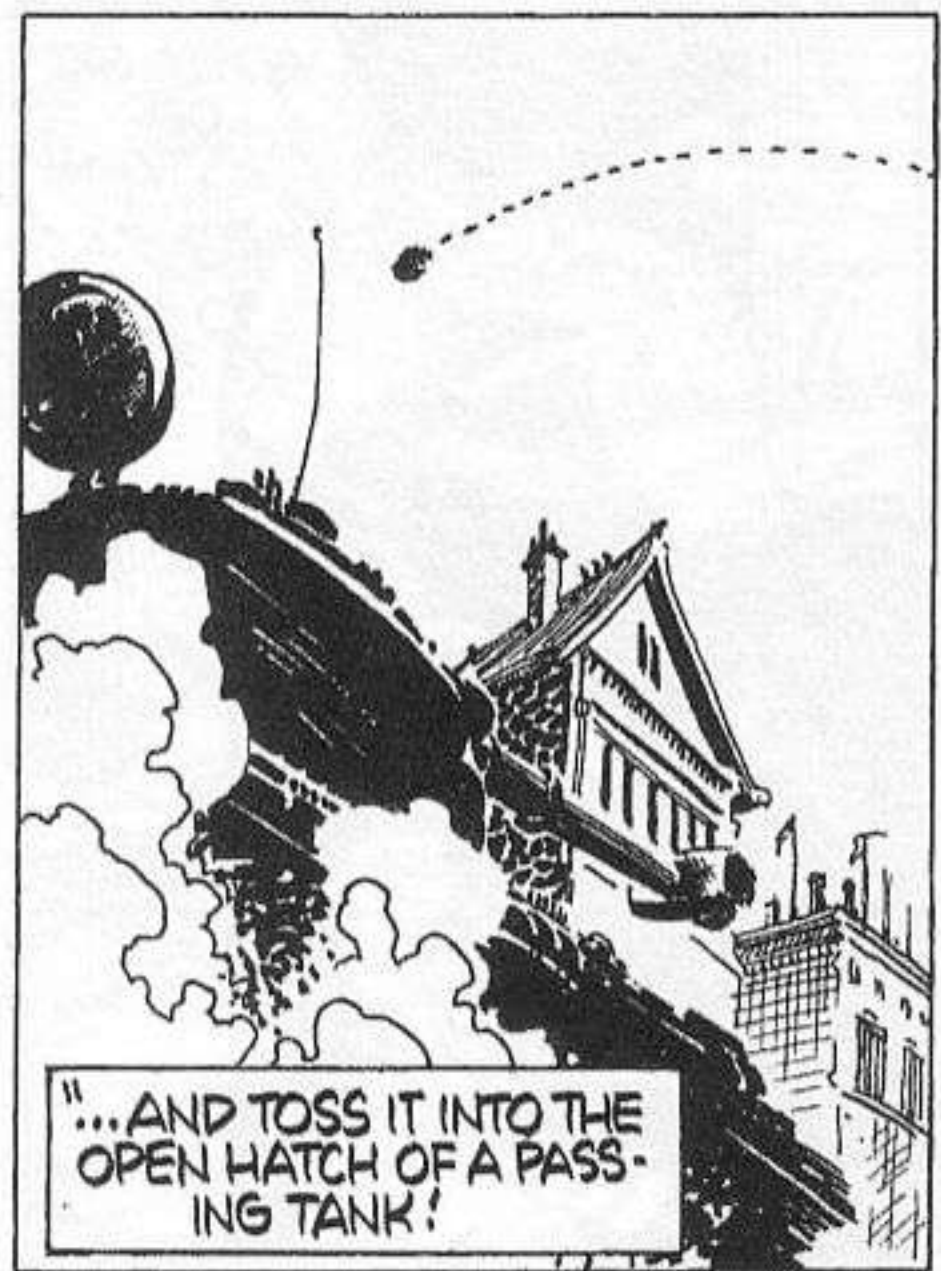
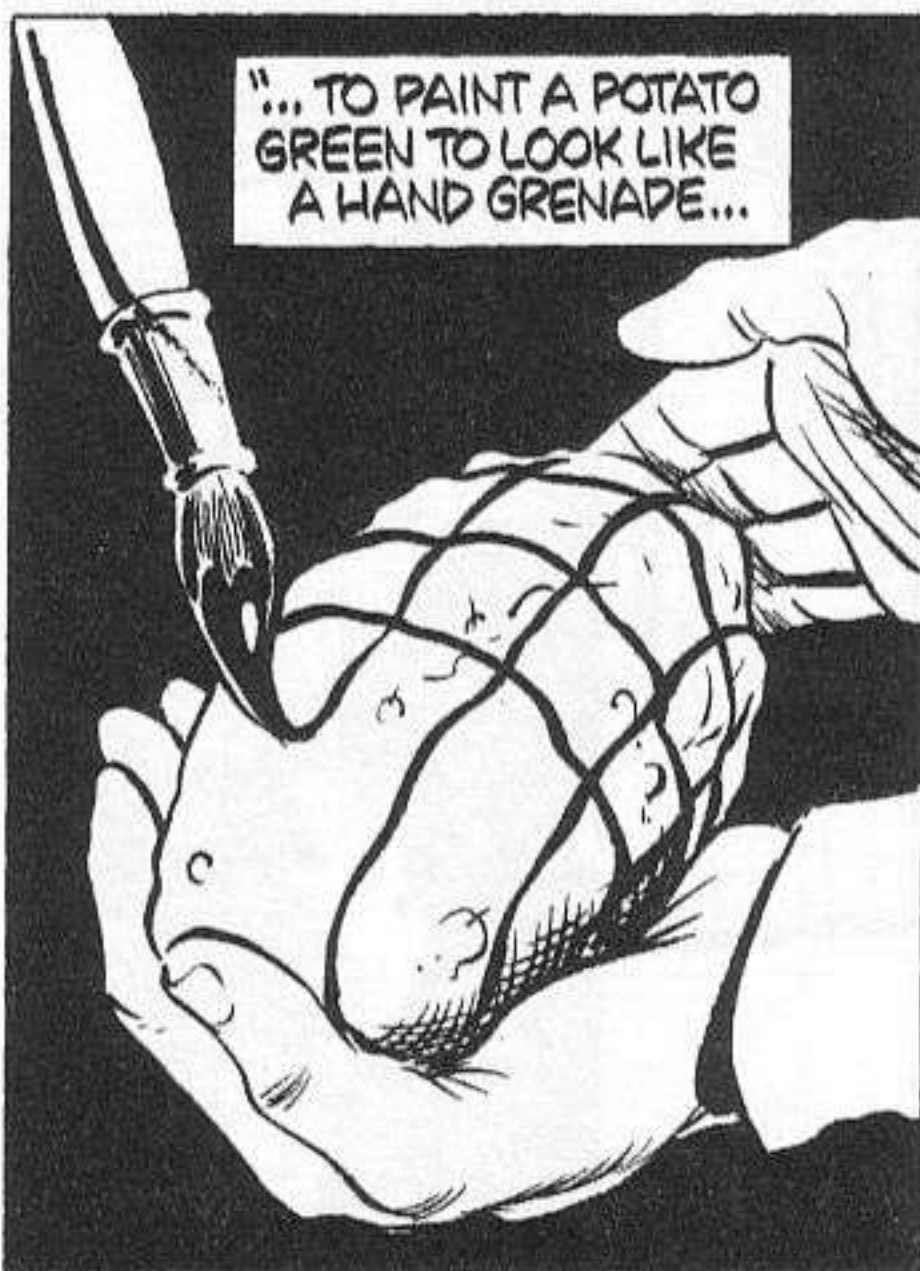


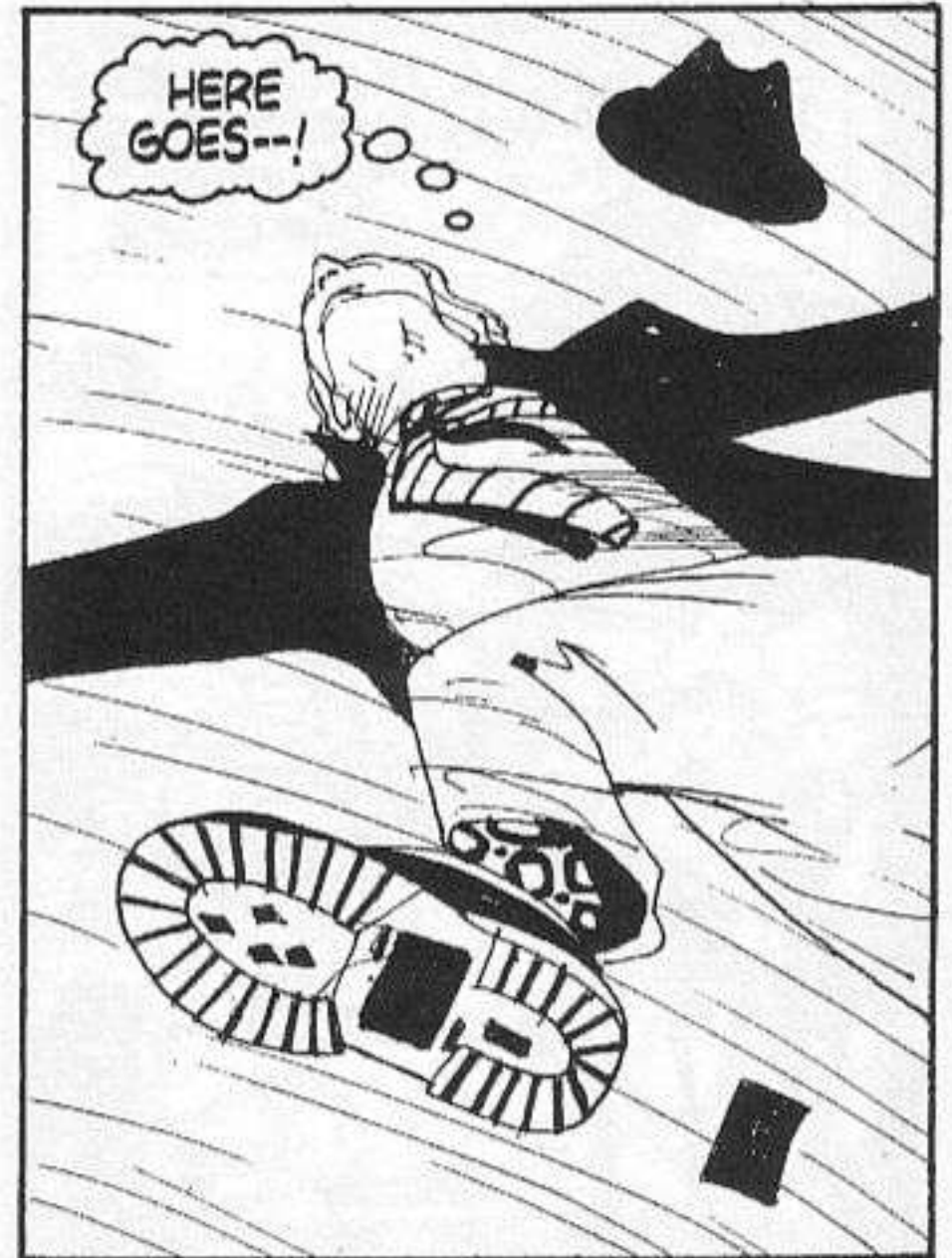


When there's a will There's a way.

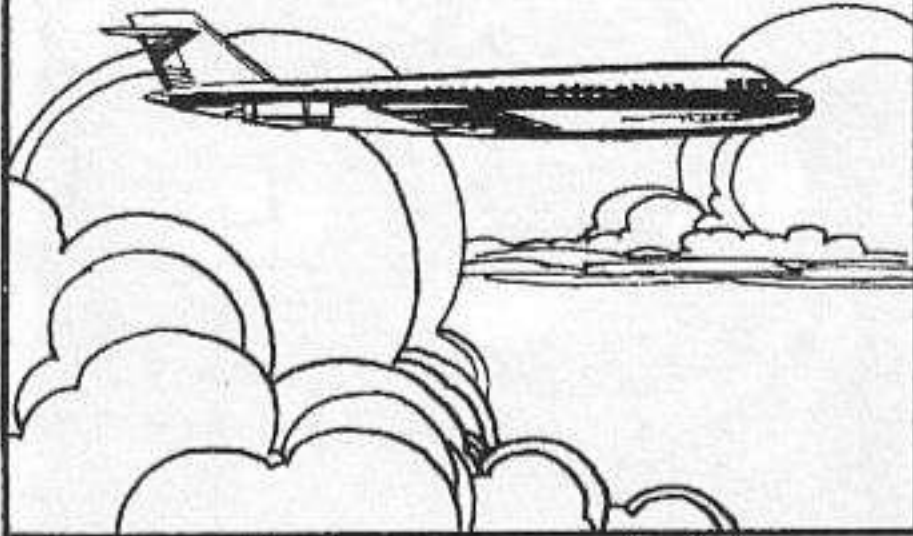








LOCKOUT AT 20,000 FEET



LAST TIME I FLEW ON ONE OF THESE JETS, THE PILOT BOUGHT EVERYONE A ROUND OF DRINKS AND WE GOT EXTRA PEANUTS FOR FREE!



WOW! WHAT WAS THE OCCASION?

"WELL, IT ALL STARTED WHEN THE CO-PILOT HAD TO GO TO THE BATHROOM..."

NATURE CALLS, BOB-- I'LL BE RIGHT BACK.



"... SO IT'S LIKE TWENTY MINUTES LATER AND THE PILOT STARTS TO WONDER IF THE CO-PILOT'S EVER COMING BACK ..."

EMILY, CAN YOU COME UP FRONT AND CHECK THE MEN'S ROOM? JERRY'S BEEN GONE A WHILE...



SORRY, BOB, WE'RE IN THE MIDDLE OF BEVERAGE SERVICE AND THE CART IS BLOCKING THE AISLE.



THAT'S ALL RIGHT. I NEED TO STRETCH MY LEGS, SO I'LL CHECK IT MYSELF...



"BUT THE CABIN DOOR LOCKED BEHIND HIM, AND THERE WAS NO ONE IN THE DRIVER'S SEAT..."

CLICK!



"THAT'S WHEN HE REACHED FOR THE AXE."



SO, WHY WAS THE CO-PILOT GONE FOR SO LONG?

BEATS ME. MAYBE HE FLUSHED WHILE HE WAS STILL ON THE SEAT. A FRIEND OF MINE KNEW A DOCTOR WHO WAS ON A FLIGHT...



Ghost Pilot



POUR ME ANOTHER DOUBLE AND I'LL TELL YOU ABOUT THE GHOST IN THE GALLEY...

"THERE WAS A PILOT WHOSE DAUGHTER WAS A STEWARDESS..."



WHAT'S THE PROBLEM, DADDY?

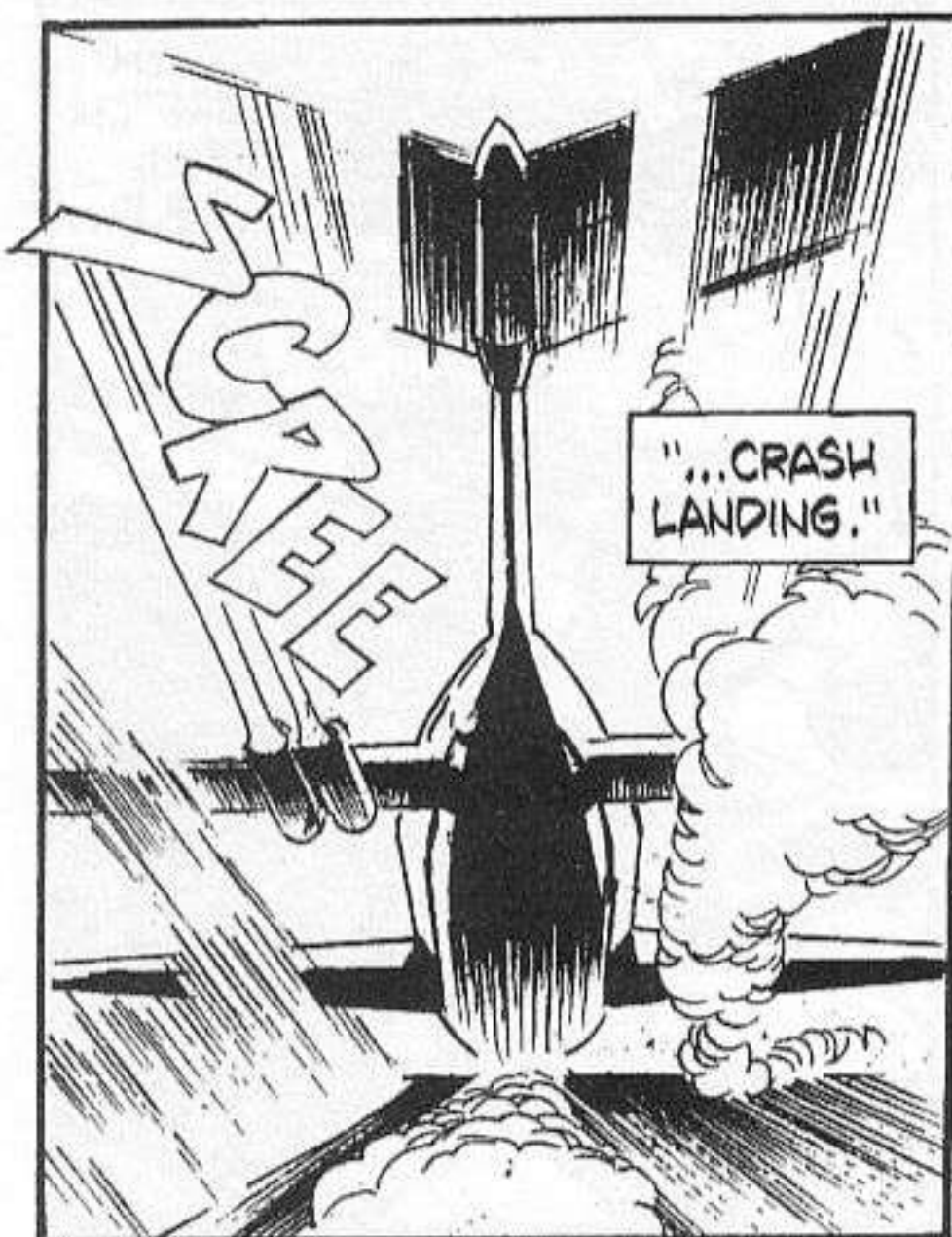
IT'S THESE DAMN FLAPS-- THEY'RE STUCK!

"AN HOUR LATER, THINGS WENT FROM BAD TO WORSE..."

DADDY, THE PASSENGERS ARE BEGINNING TO ASK QUESTIONS...



LISTEN, PUMPKIN, WE'RE IN BAD SHAPE. I'M GONNA HAVE TO ATTEMPT A...



"...CRASH LANDING."



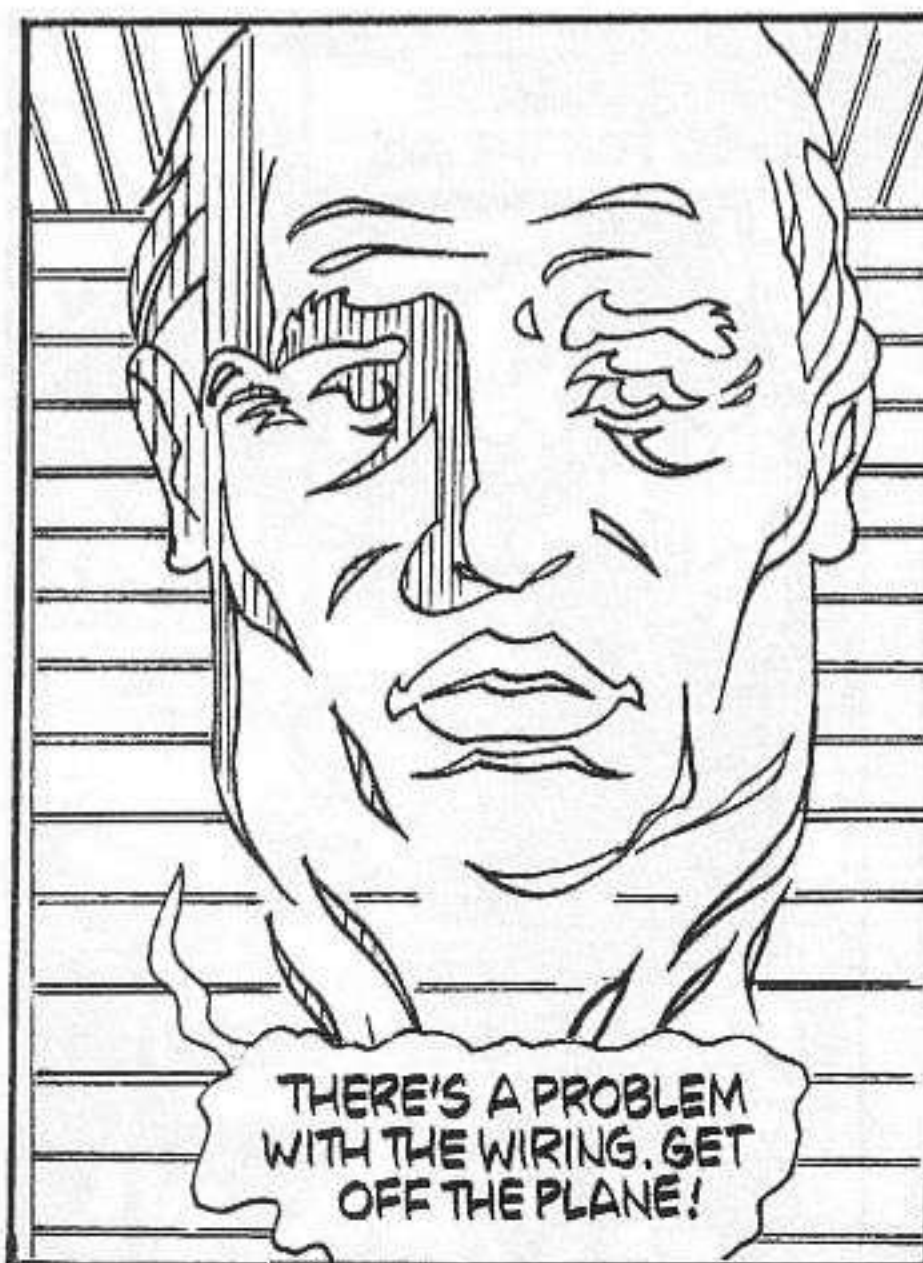
DADDY?



HE WAS A GOOD PILOT.

A LOT OF PEOPLE SURVIVED THAT CRASH INCLUDING HIS DAUGHTER, WHO STILL WORKS AS A STEWARDESS...

"YEARS LATER, JUST BEFORE A TAKEOFF, SHE SEES A GHOST IN ONE OF THE FOOD WARMERS..."



THERE'S A PROBLEM WITH THE WIRING. GET OFF THE PLANE!

THEY CHECKED IT OUT--AND FOUND AN ELECTRICAL FIRE IN THE HYDRAULIC SYSTEM. TRUE STORY.



ANOTHER?

JUST ONE--I GOTTA FLY IN A HALF-HOUR.



OK, I'M GOING TO SET OFF THE ALARM.



DOES EVERYBODY KNOW WHAT THEY'RE SUPPOSED TO DO?

SURE, DAD...

I CALL NINE-ELEVEN AND THEN CHECK THE KIDS' BEDROOMS...



EVERYONE STAYS CLOSE TO THE FLOOR...

... WHERE THERE'S LESS SMOKE...



I CLOSE THE WINDOWS AND SHUT OFF THE POWER...

...AND THEN WE ALL WAIT ON THE FRONT LAWN FOR THE FIRE DEPARTMENT TO ARRIVE...

PERFECT! THAT'S GREAT, KIDS!



BUT DAYS LATER...

A FIRE! DAMNED FIRE ALARM NEVER WENT OFF! GET THE KIDS!



WHERE IS EVERYBODY? I GOTTA GO BACK IN!

HONEY, THE KIDS! WHERE ARE THE KIDS?

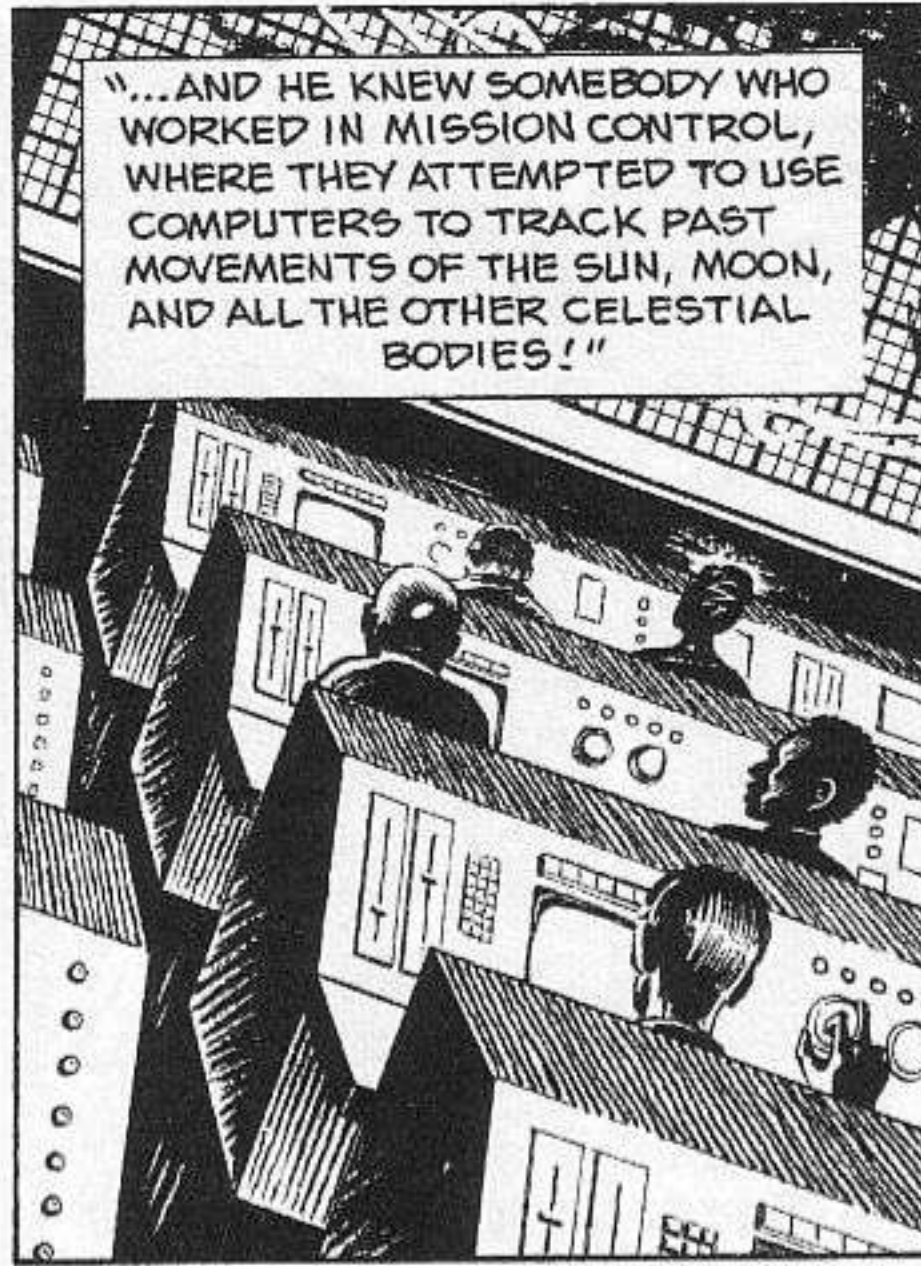
I WAS TRYING TO CALL NINE-ELEVEN...



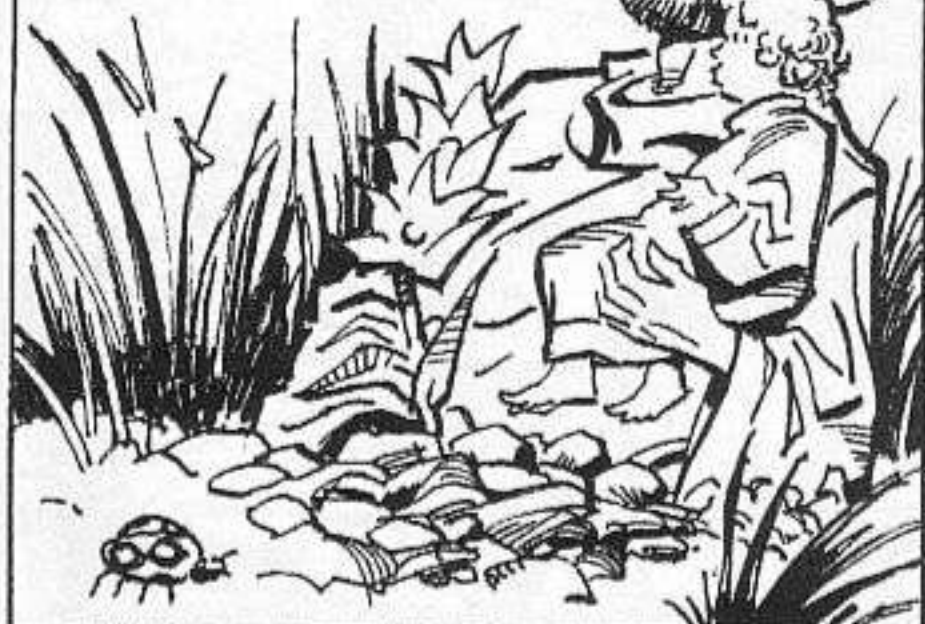
...BUT I COULDN'T FIND IT...



I COULDN'T FIND ELEVEN ON THE DIAL!



BURYING ST. JOE



GLENN AND JOY DECIDED TO
SELL THEIR HOUSE...



... BUT AFTER MONTHS ON THE MARKET,
THE PROPERTY REMAINED UNSOLD.



THEY HEARD THAT BURYING A STATUE
OF A SAINT IN THEIR YARD WOULD HELP
SELL THE PROPERTY...



ST. JOSEPH IS YOUR
MAN... er... SAINT.



GRAB ONE OF THEM
TWO-DOLLAR MODELS--
THEY'RE PERFECT
FOR BURYING!

EVERYONE THEY
TALKED TO HAD A
DIFFERENT IDEA
OF WHAT TO DO
WITH ST. JOE.



BURY HIM UPSIDE
DOWN IN THE
FRONT YARD
WITH HIS FEET
POINTED TOWARD
HEAVEN.

BURY HIM ON HIS
BACK, WITH THE
TOP OF HIS
HEAD
POINTING
AT THE
HOUSE YOU
WANT TO
SELL.



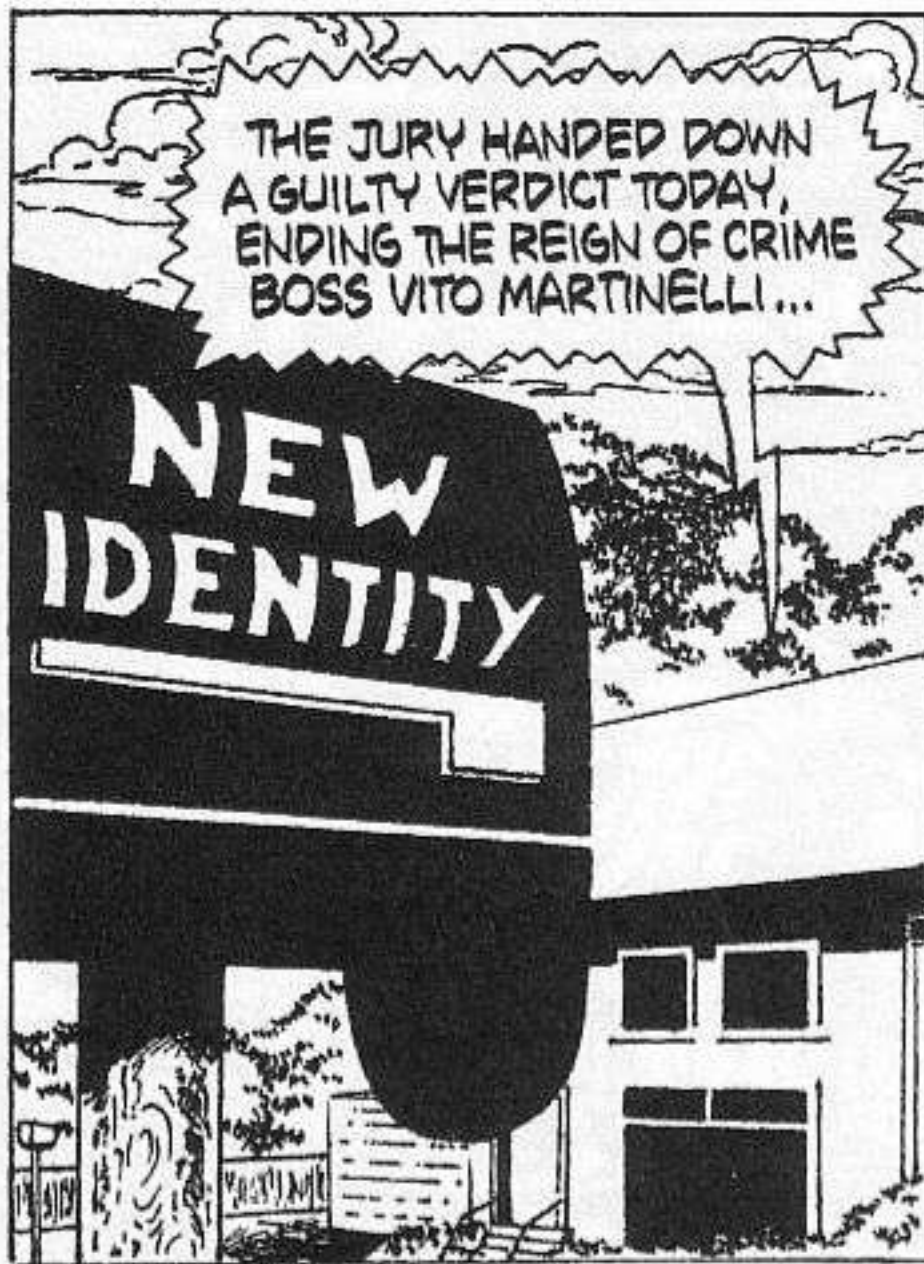
BE SURE THE SAINT'S HEAD IS
POINTING TOWARD THE STREET,
AND DON'T DIG UP THE FIGURINE
UNTIL AFTER YOU'VE CLOSED
THE DEAL.

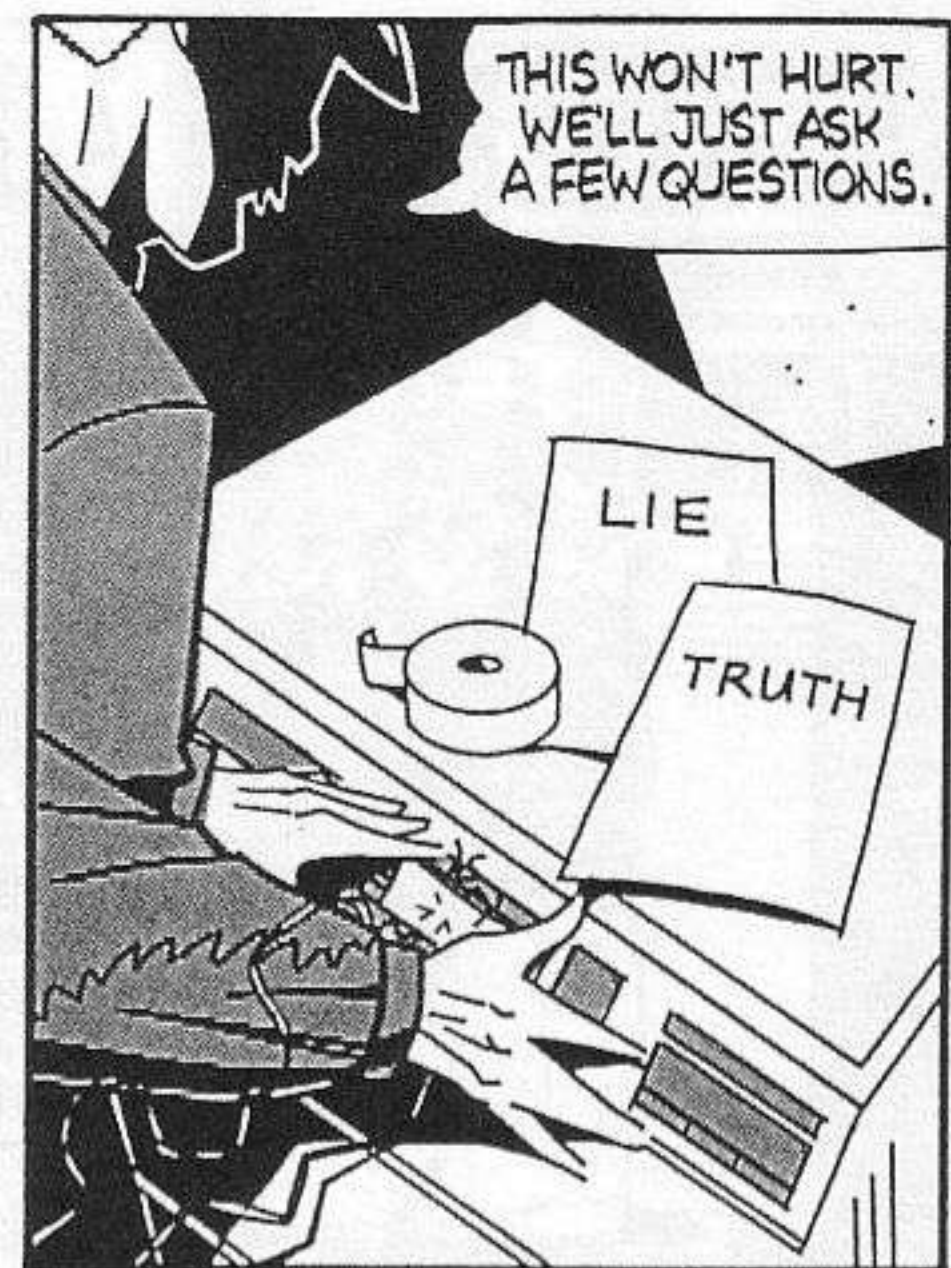


TO COVER ALL THE BASES, THEY BUR-
IED A DOZEN ST. JOSEPHS FACING IN
ALL DIRECTIONS, FRONT YARD AND BACK.

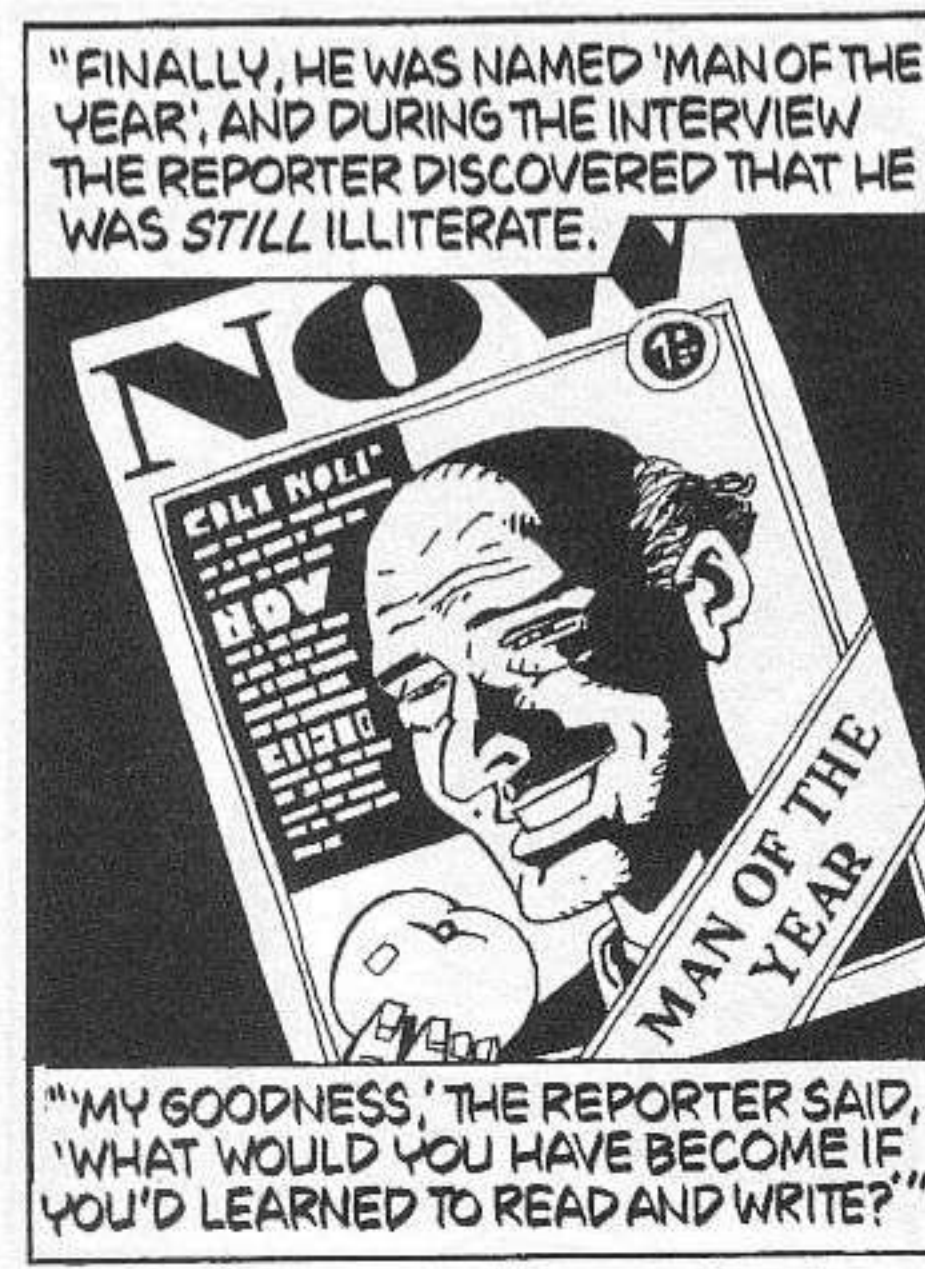
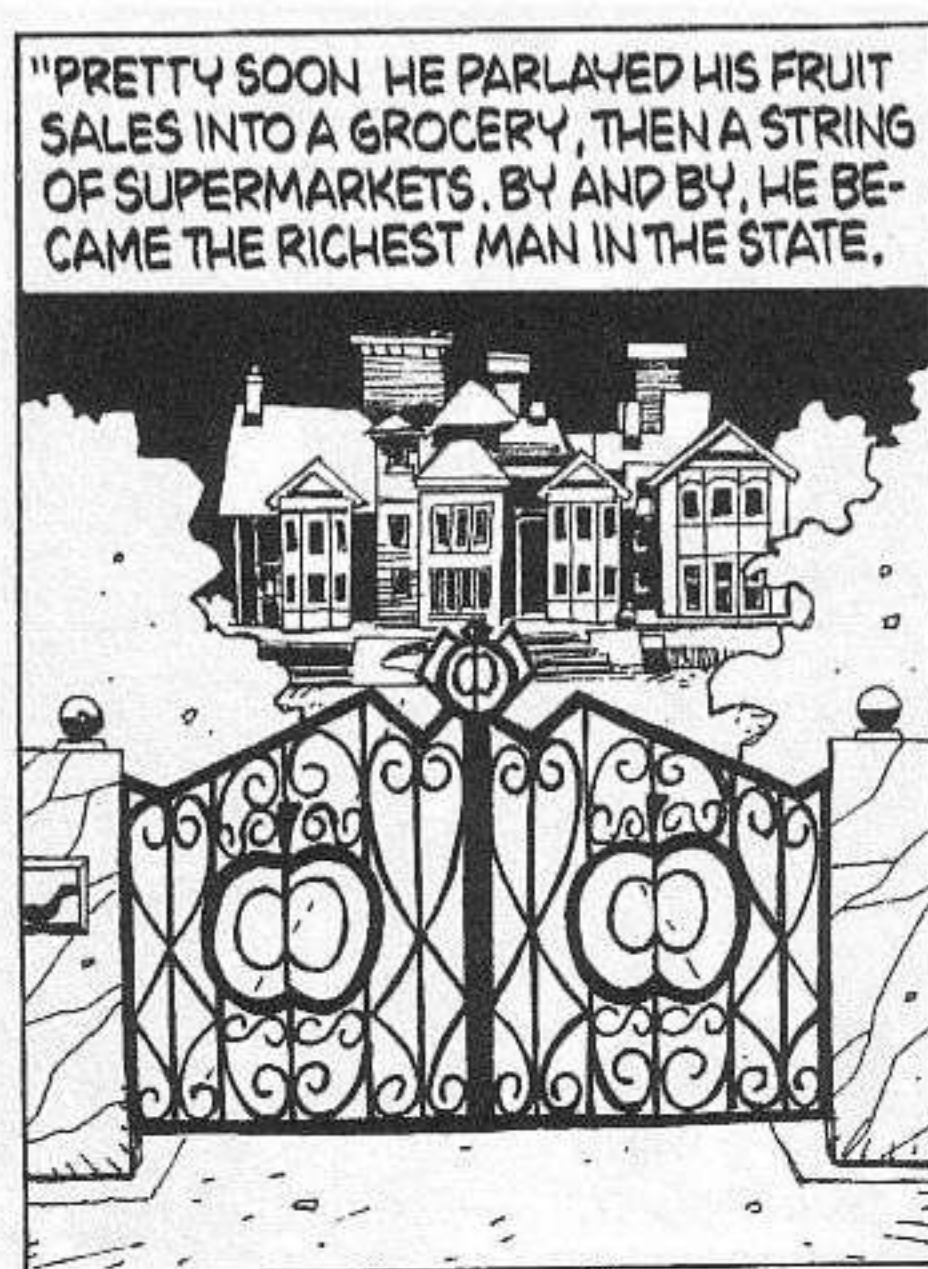
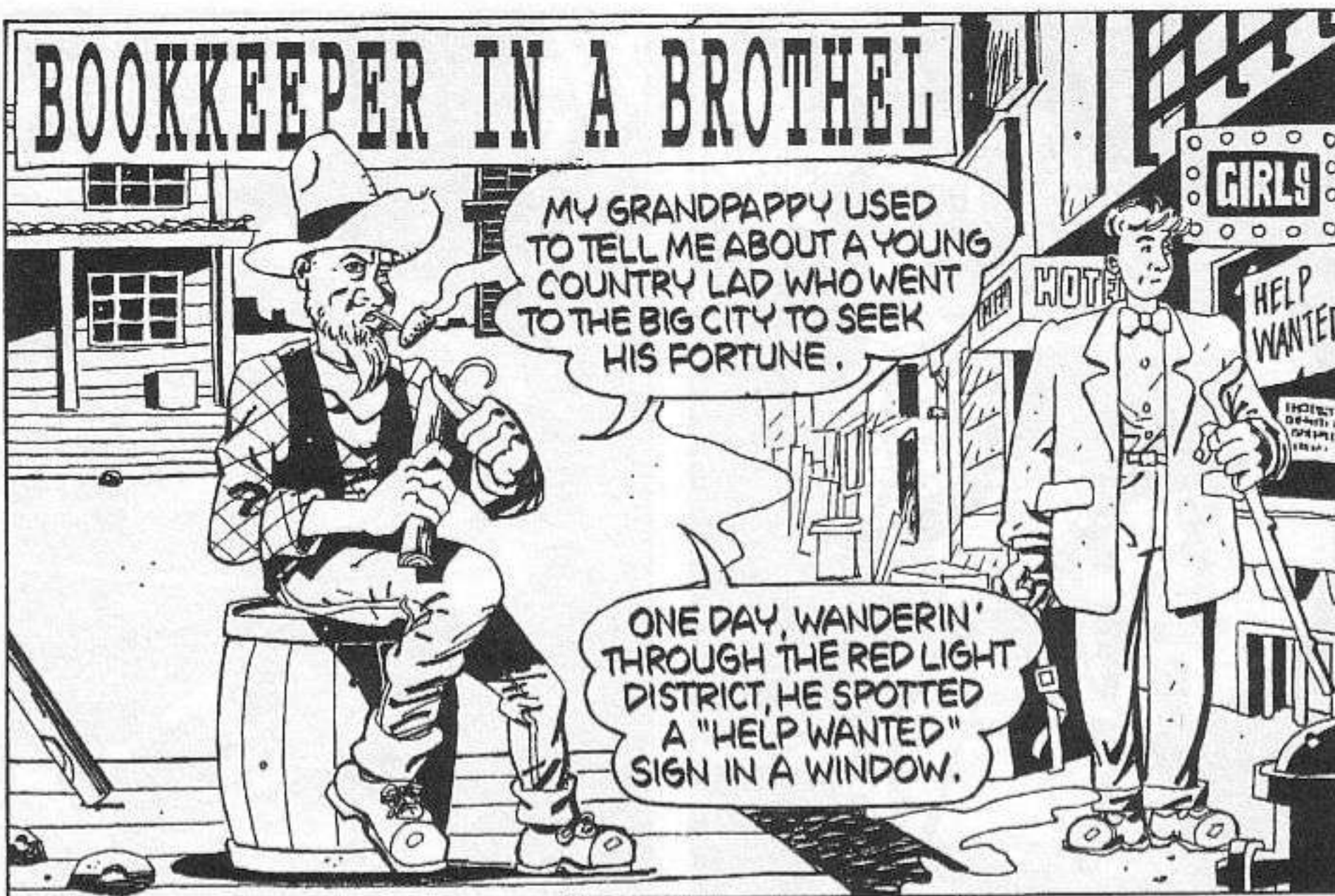


THE NEXT DAY A
DEVELOPER
BOUGHT THEIR
ENTIRE
NEIGHBORHOOD!





BOOKKEEPER IN A BROTHEL



CHAPTER EIGHT

FOAF - A-RAMA

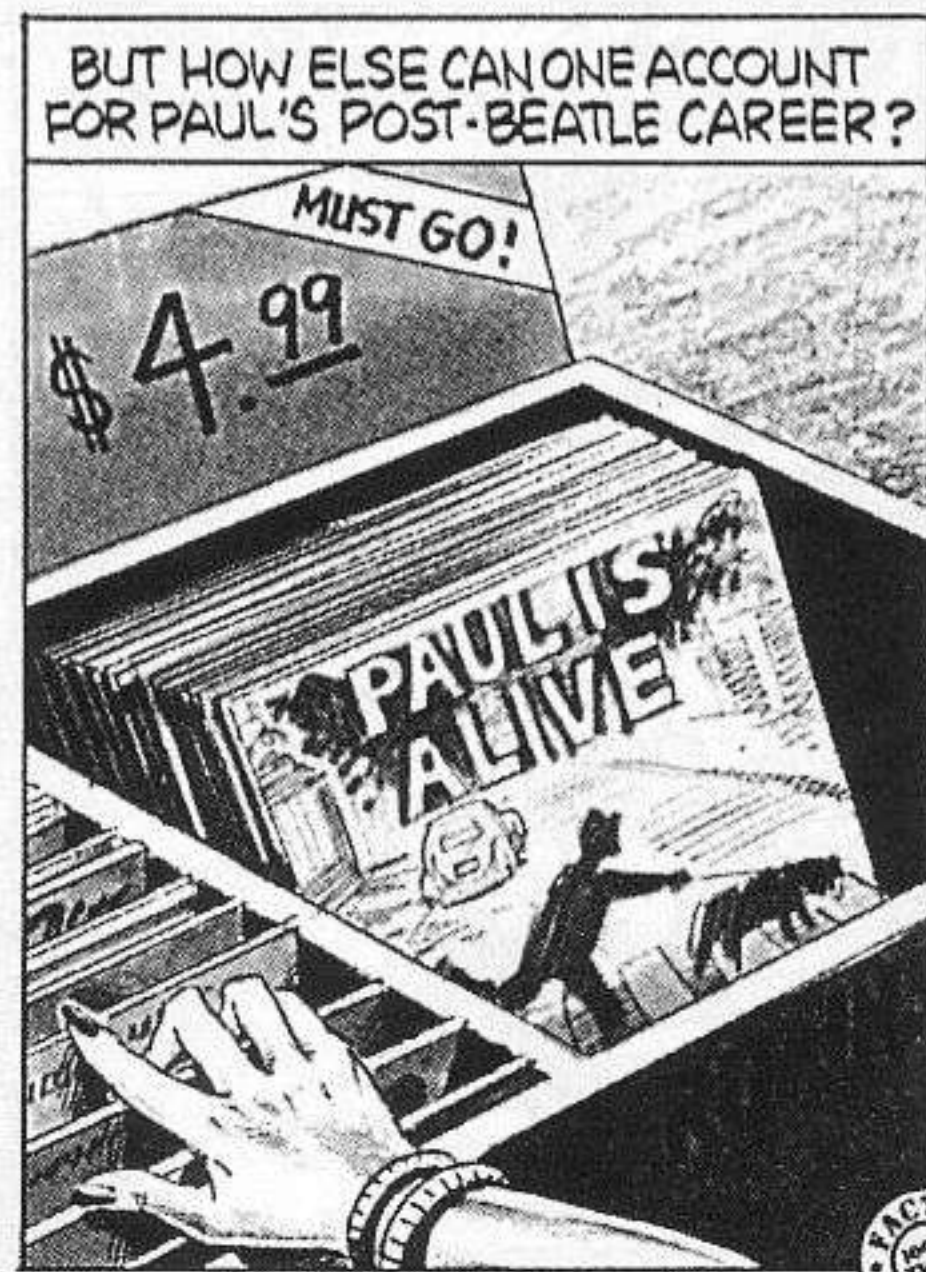
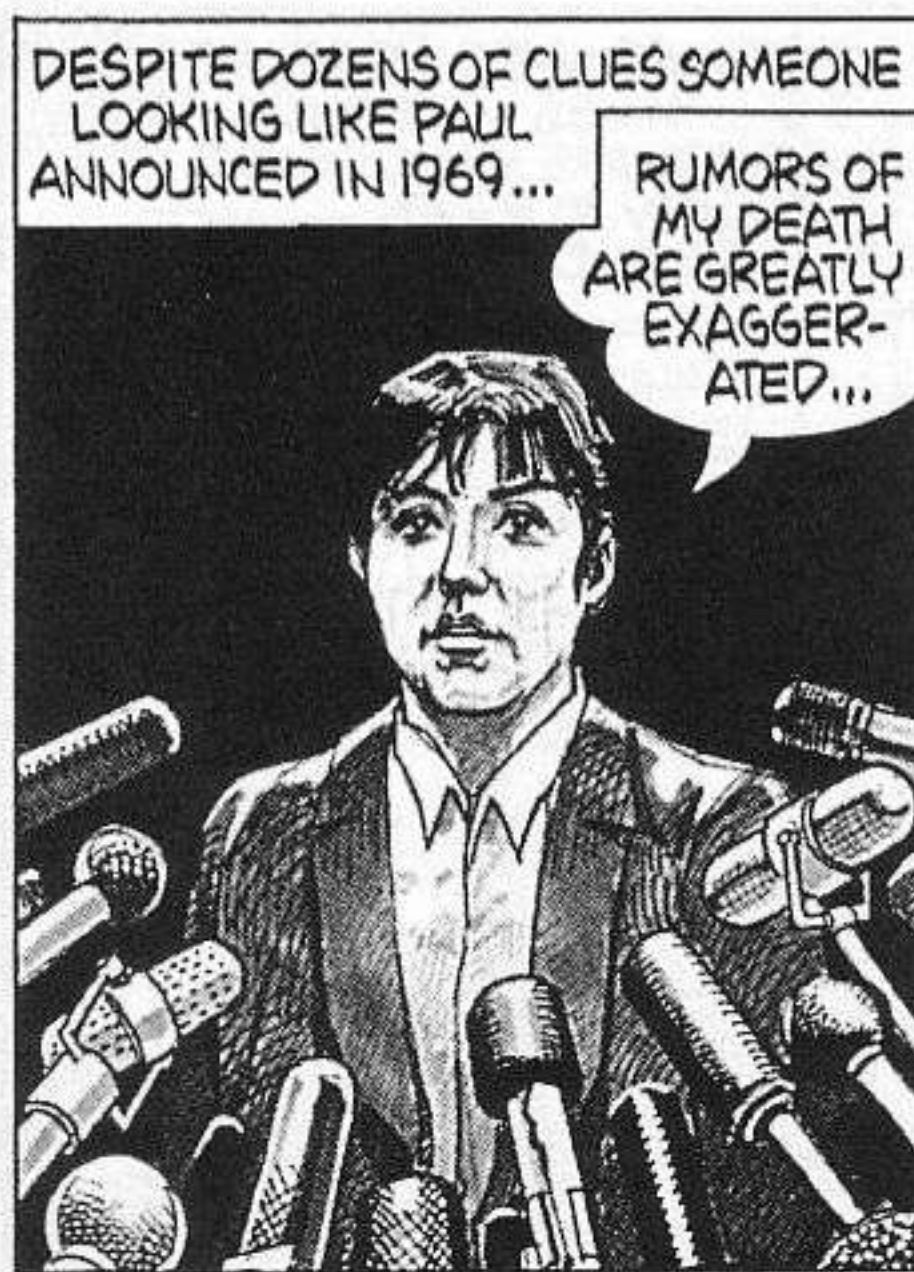
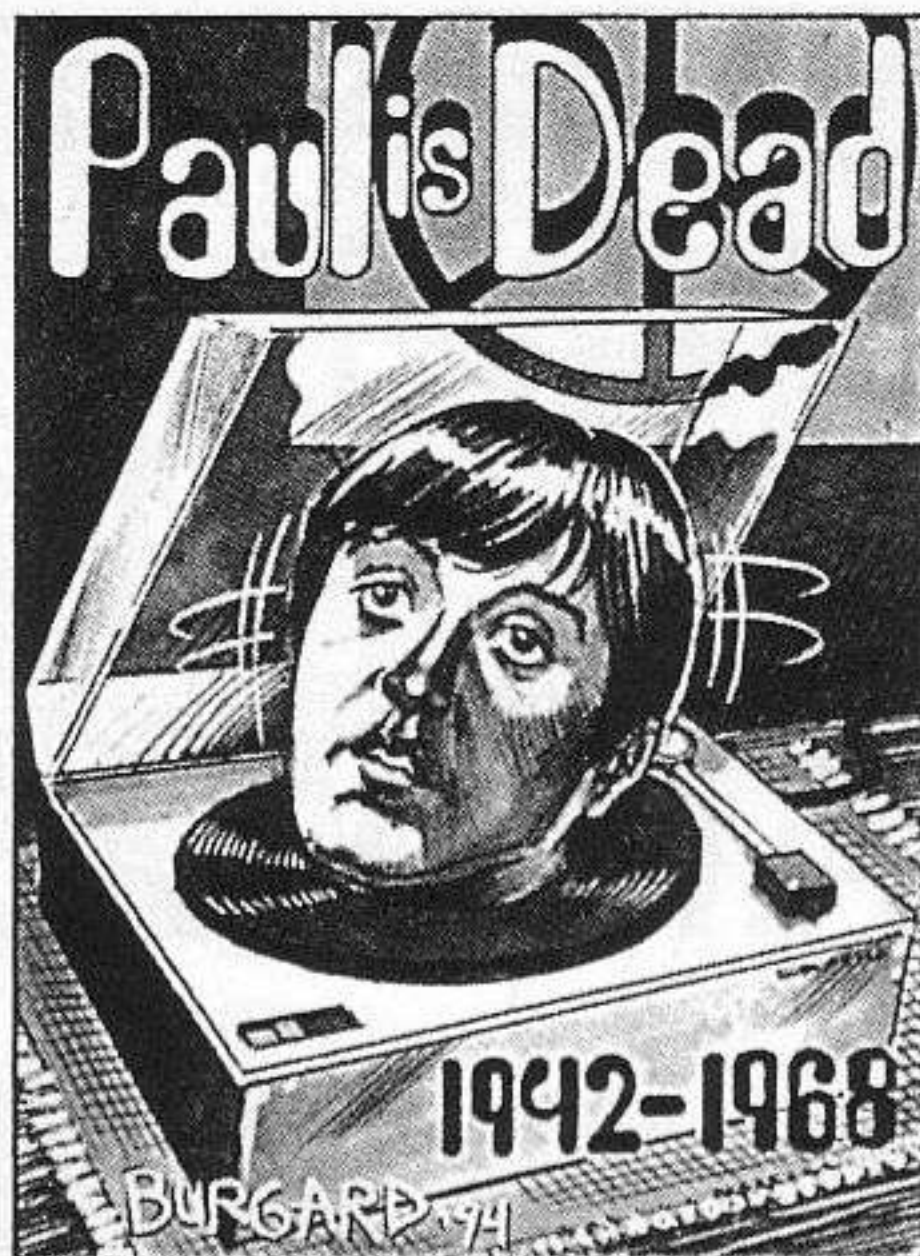
CELEBRITY
RUMORS,
ACADEMIA
LEGENDS
AND
MISCELLANEOUS

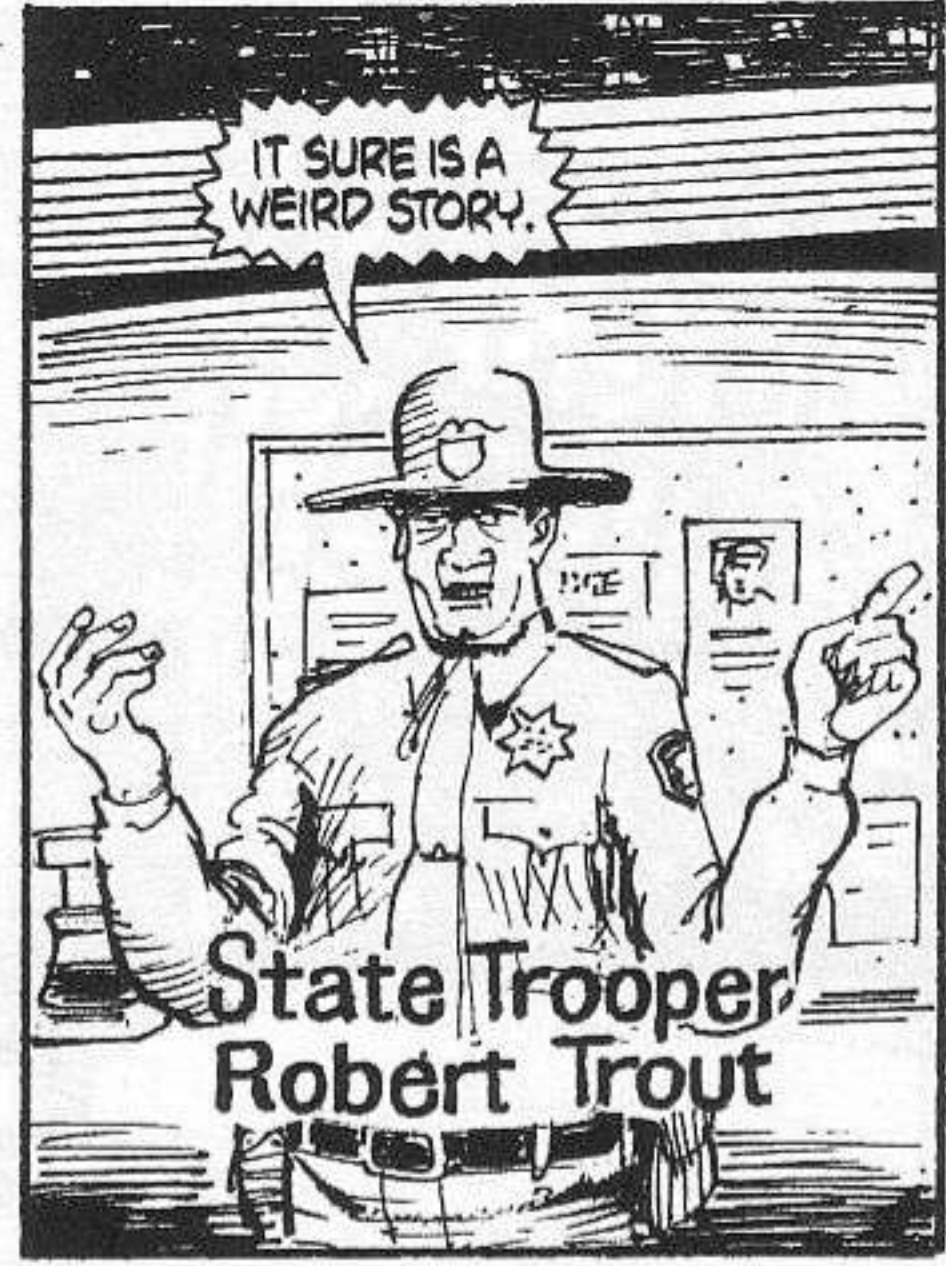
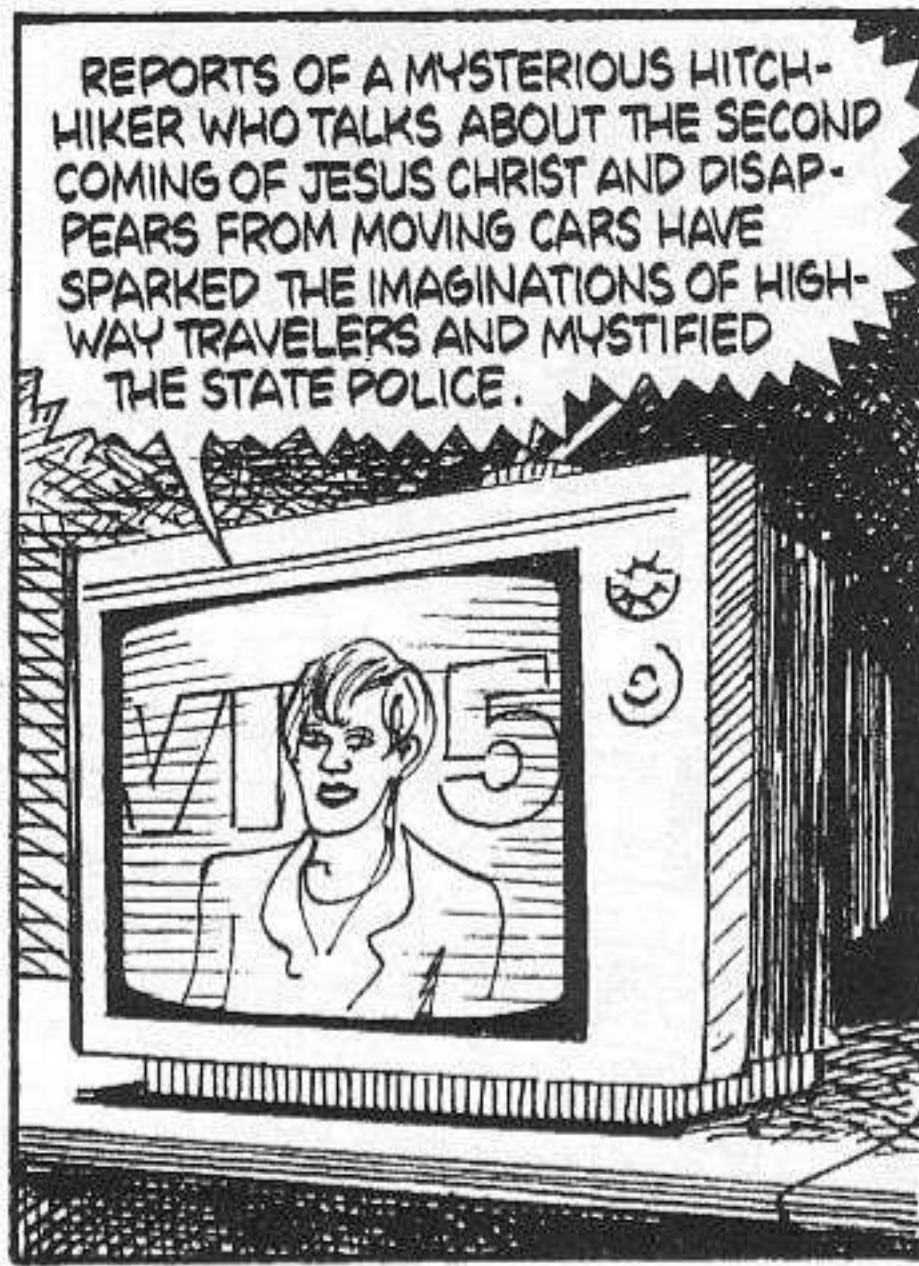
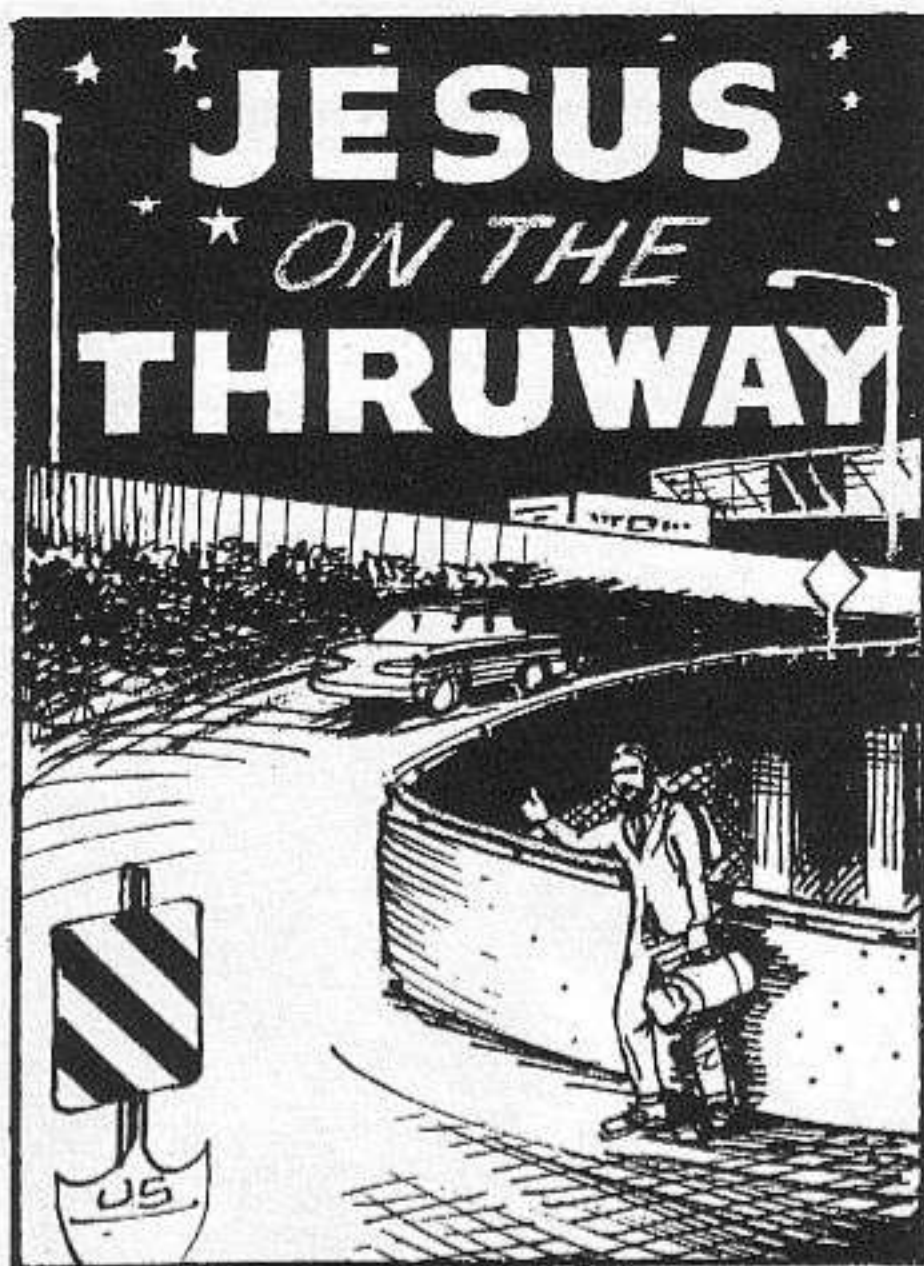
It seems like every classification system must have a final “Miscellaneous” category, and so this is mine. I flatter myself, probably, by grouping academic legends with those about celebrities, or dare I say about “other celebrities”? On the other hand, here are professors and students sharing the section with the likes of Bozo the Clown (*page 199*), not to mention Richard Nixon (*page 202*). And what’s Jesus doing here? He’s obviously involved in one legend here as just another variation of “The Vanishing Hitchhiker.” This is where I came in! (See Chapter 1.)

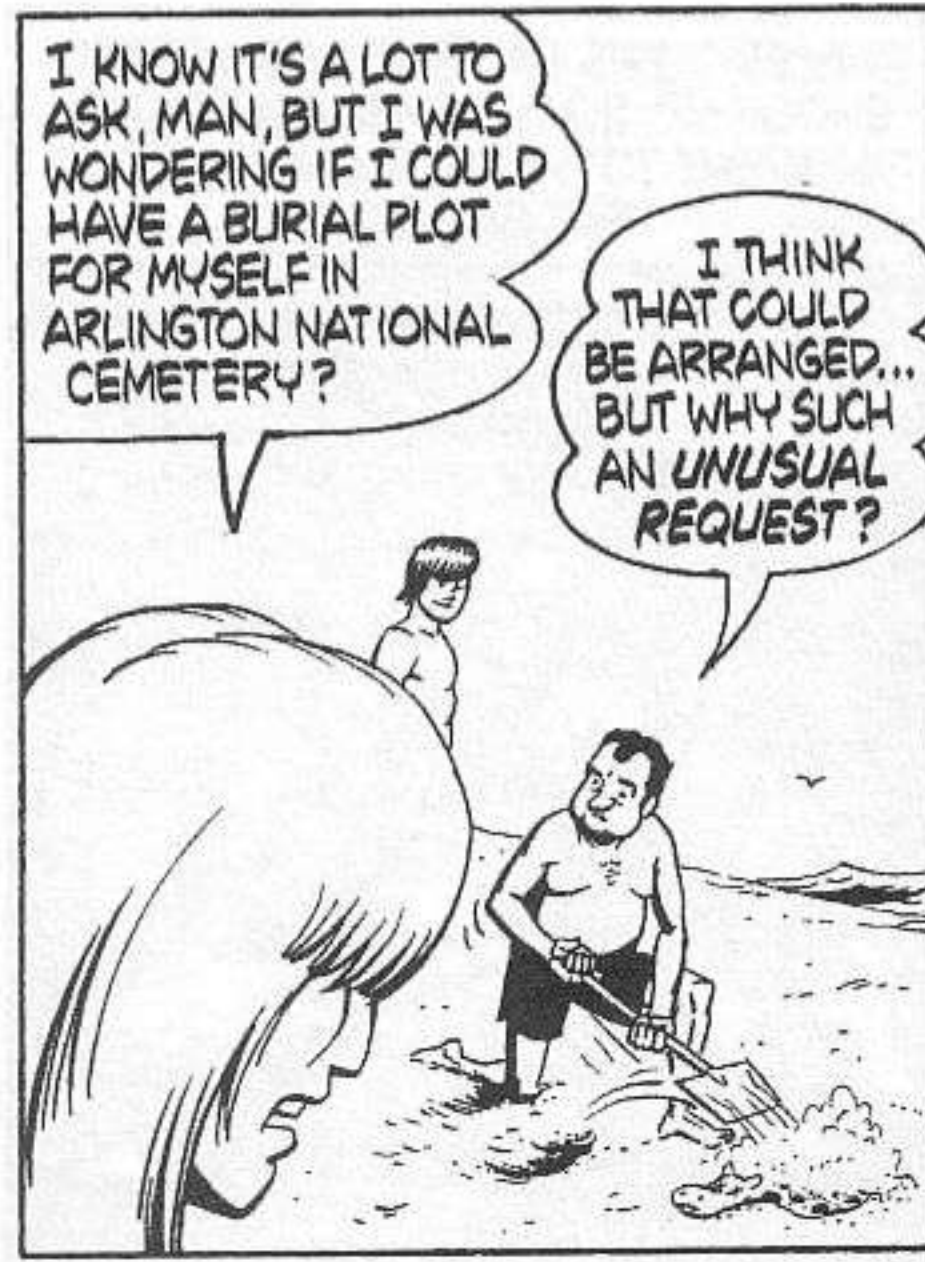
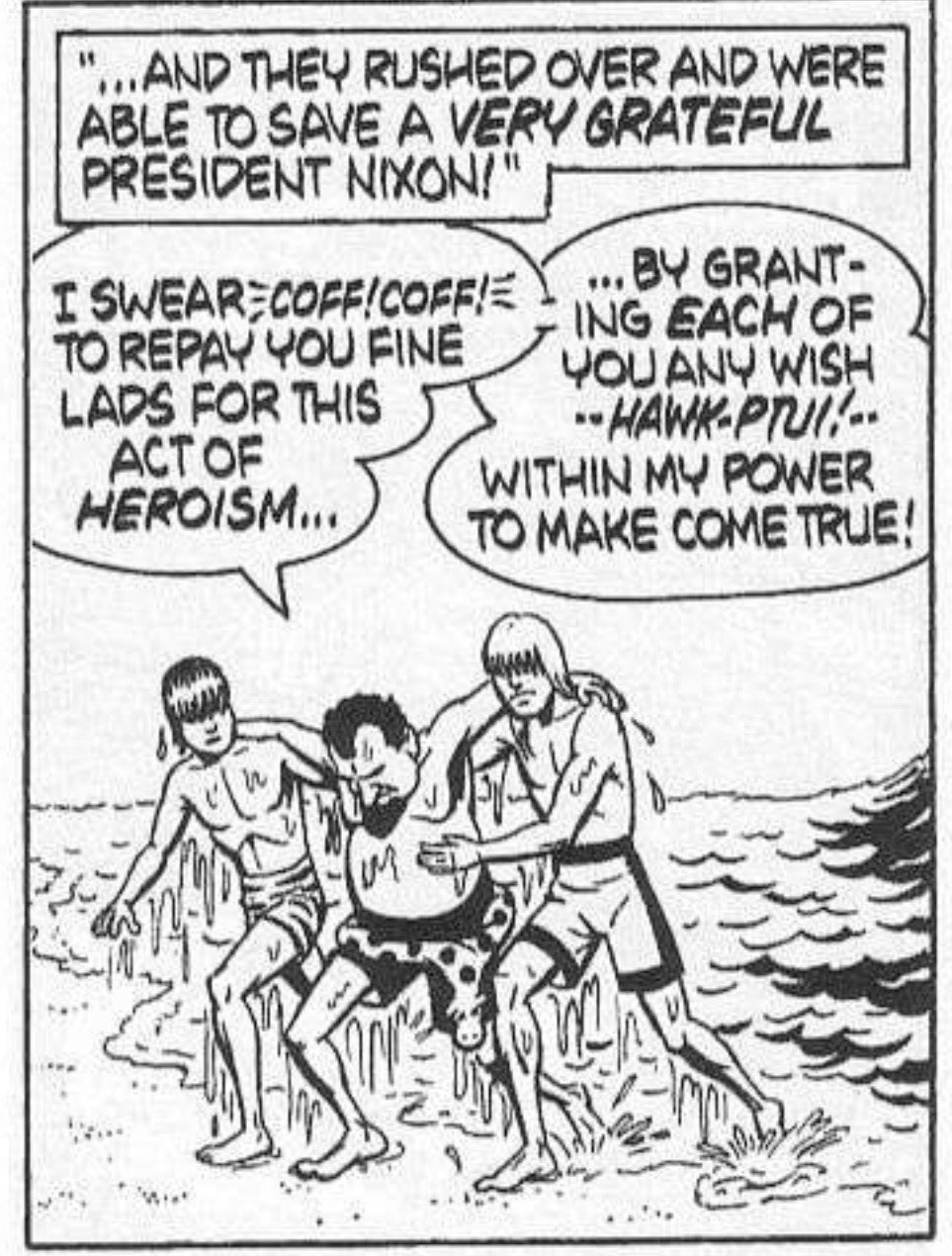
THE ELEVATOR INCIDENT





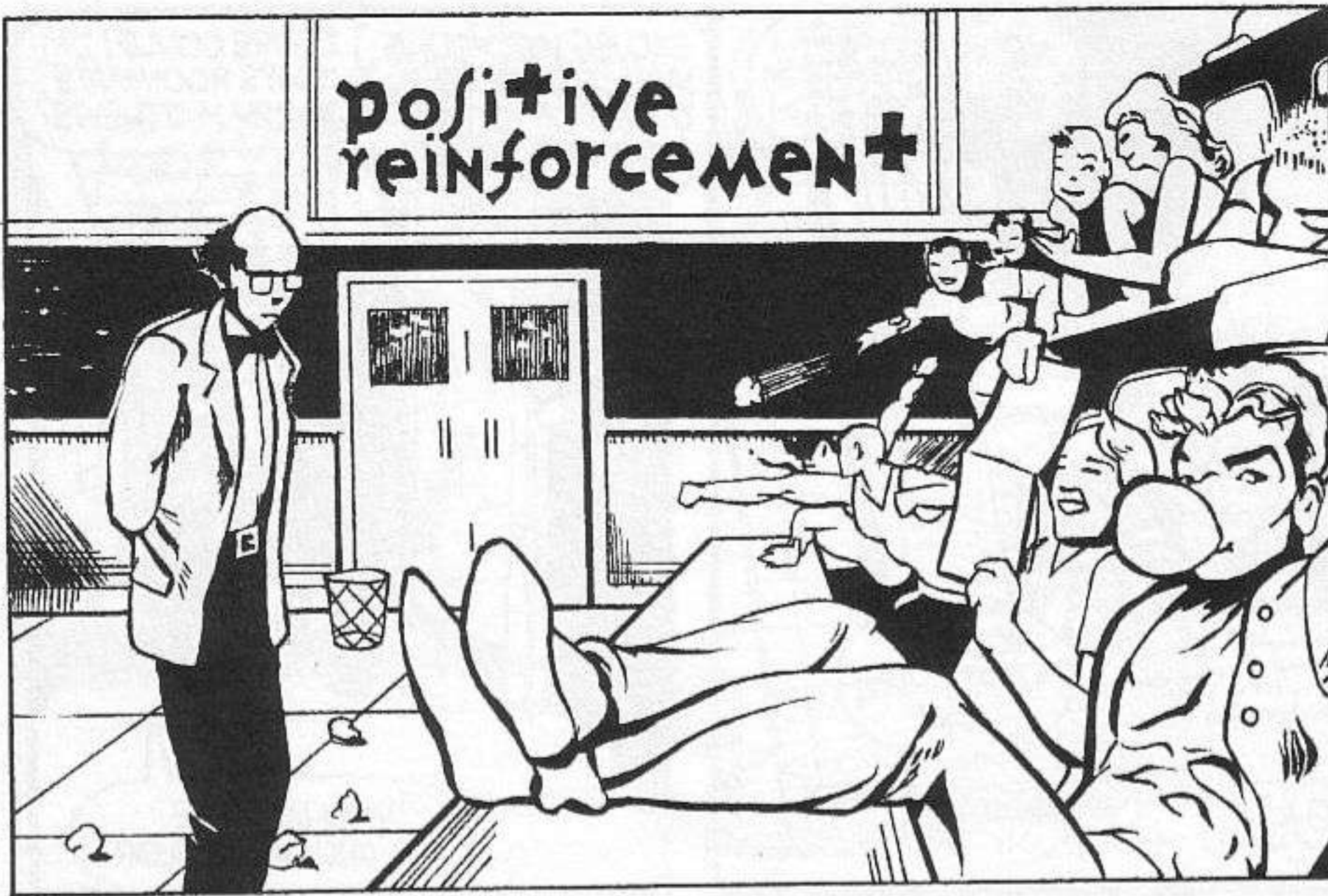








positive reinforcement



A COLLEGE STUDENT MAJORING IN PSYCHOLOGY CONVINCED THE MEMBERS OF ONE OF HIS CLASSES TO HELP HIM WITH AN EXPERIMENT.



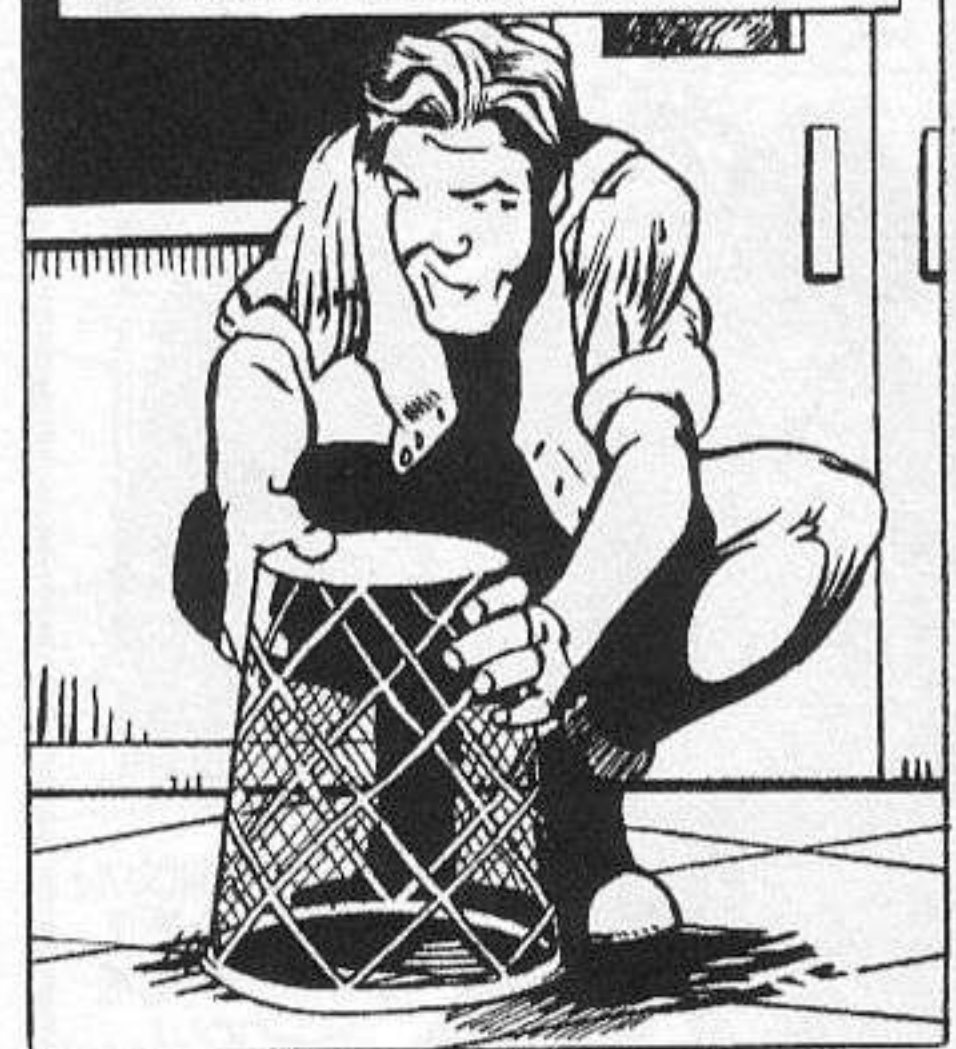
WHENEVER THEIR PROFESSOR STOOD NEAR A WASTEBASKET, THE STUDENTS PAID CLOSER ATTENTION TO HIS LECTURE.



AFTER A FEW CLASSES THE STUDENTS HAD "TRAINED" THE PROFESSOR TO STAND NEXT TO THE WASTEBASKET FOR THE ENTIRE LESSON.



THE STUDENT THEN TURNED THE WASTEBASKET UPSIDE-DOWN ONE DAY BEFORE CLASS ...



...AND USING NOTHING BUT POSITIVE REINFORCEMENT, EVENTUALLY MANAGED TO GET THEIR INSTRUCTOR TO LECTURE WITH ONE FOOT ON THE WASTEBASKET.



THEIR ULTIMATE GOAL WITHIN REACH, THE STUDENTS CONTINUED ALONG THESE LINES UNTIL ...

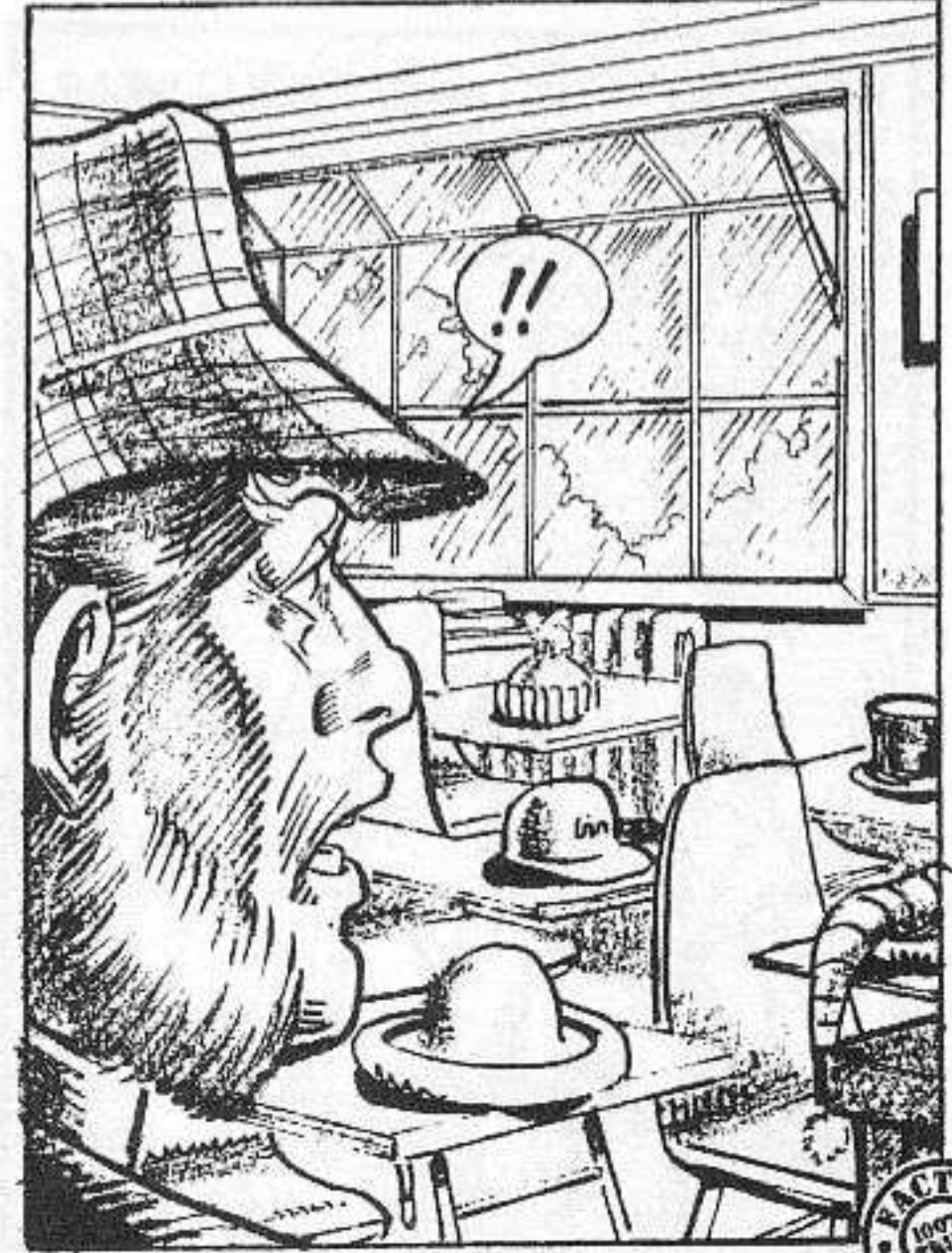
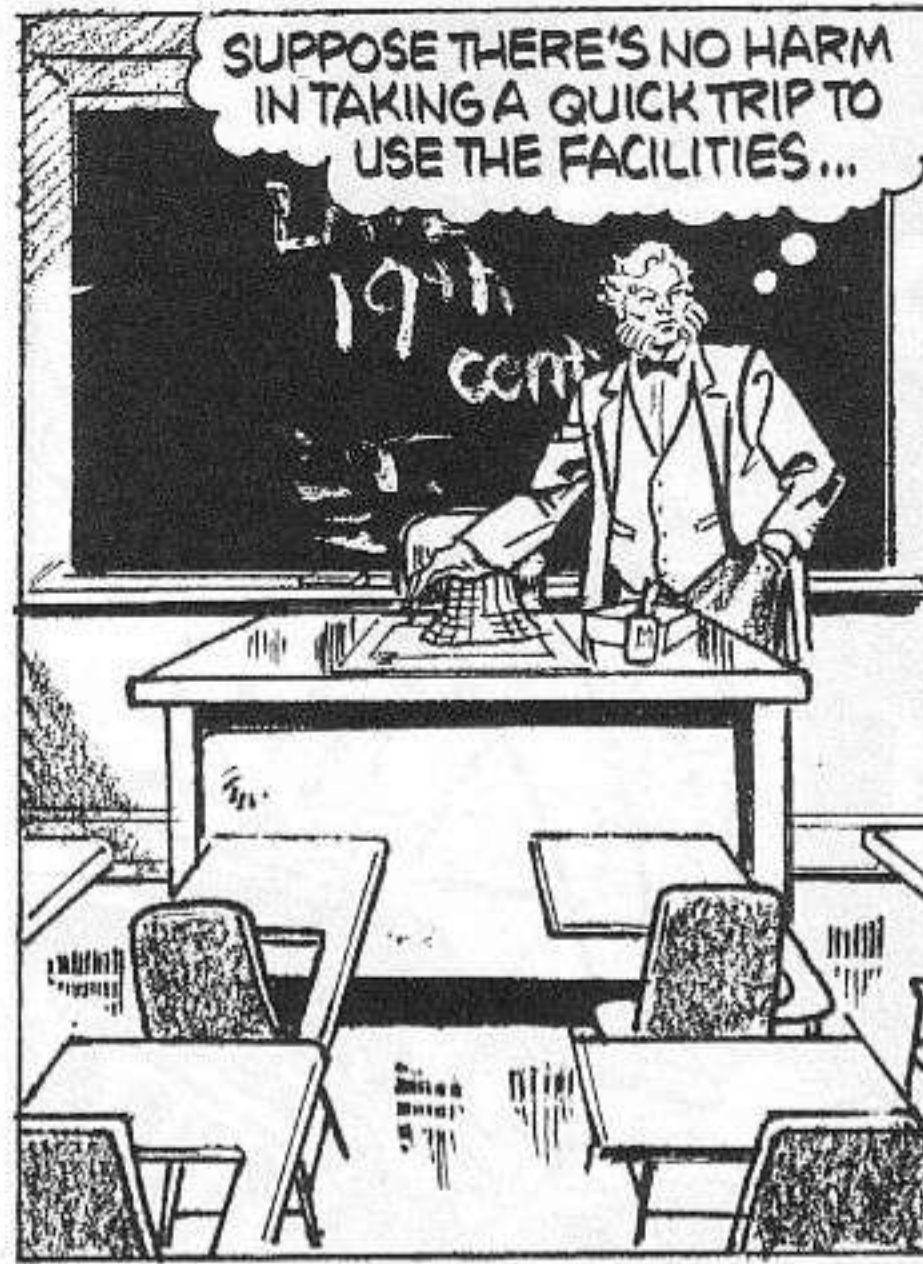
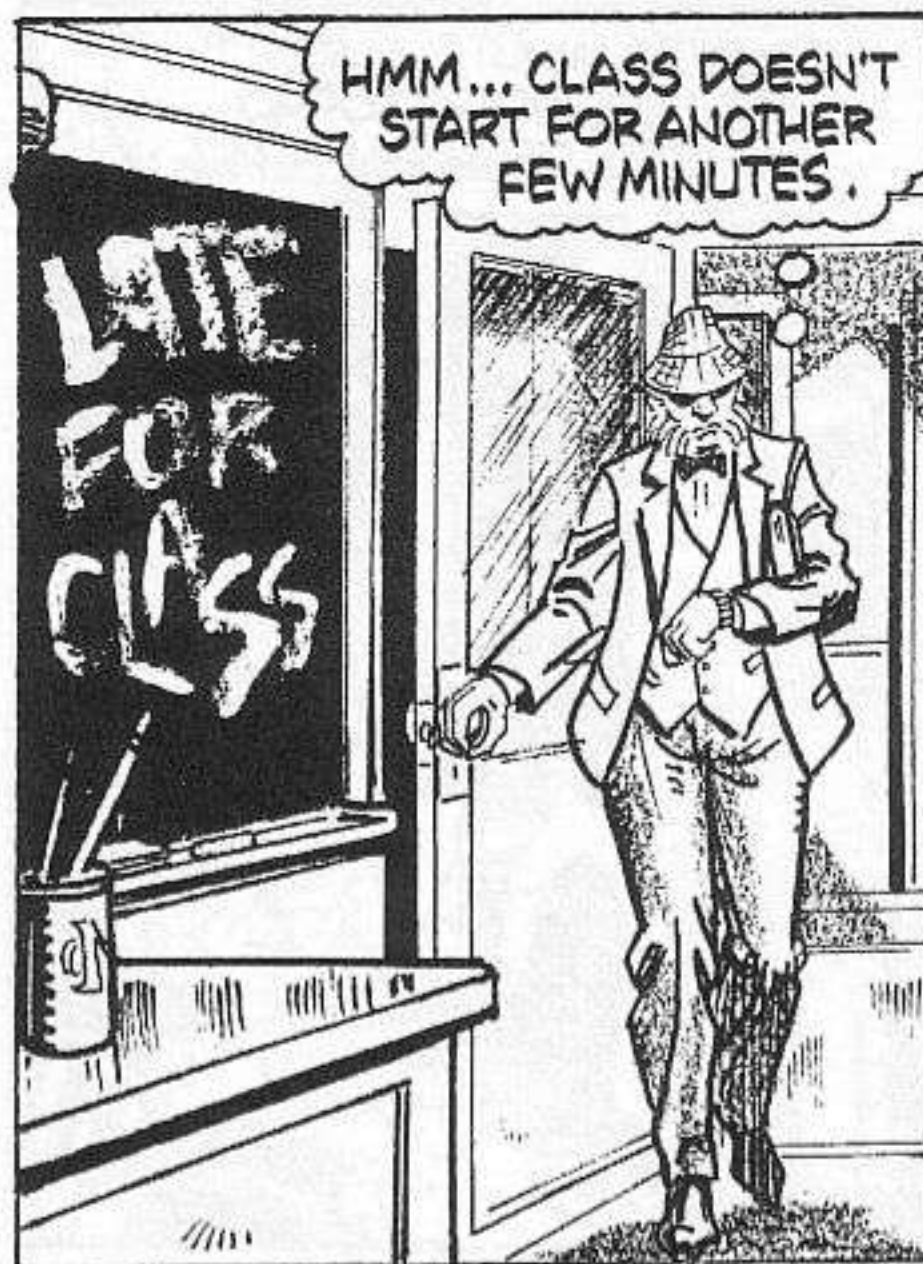


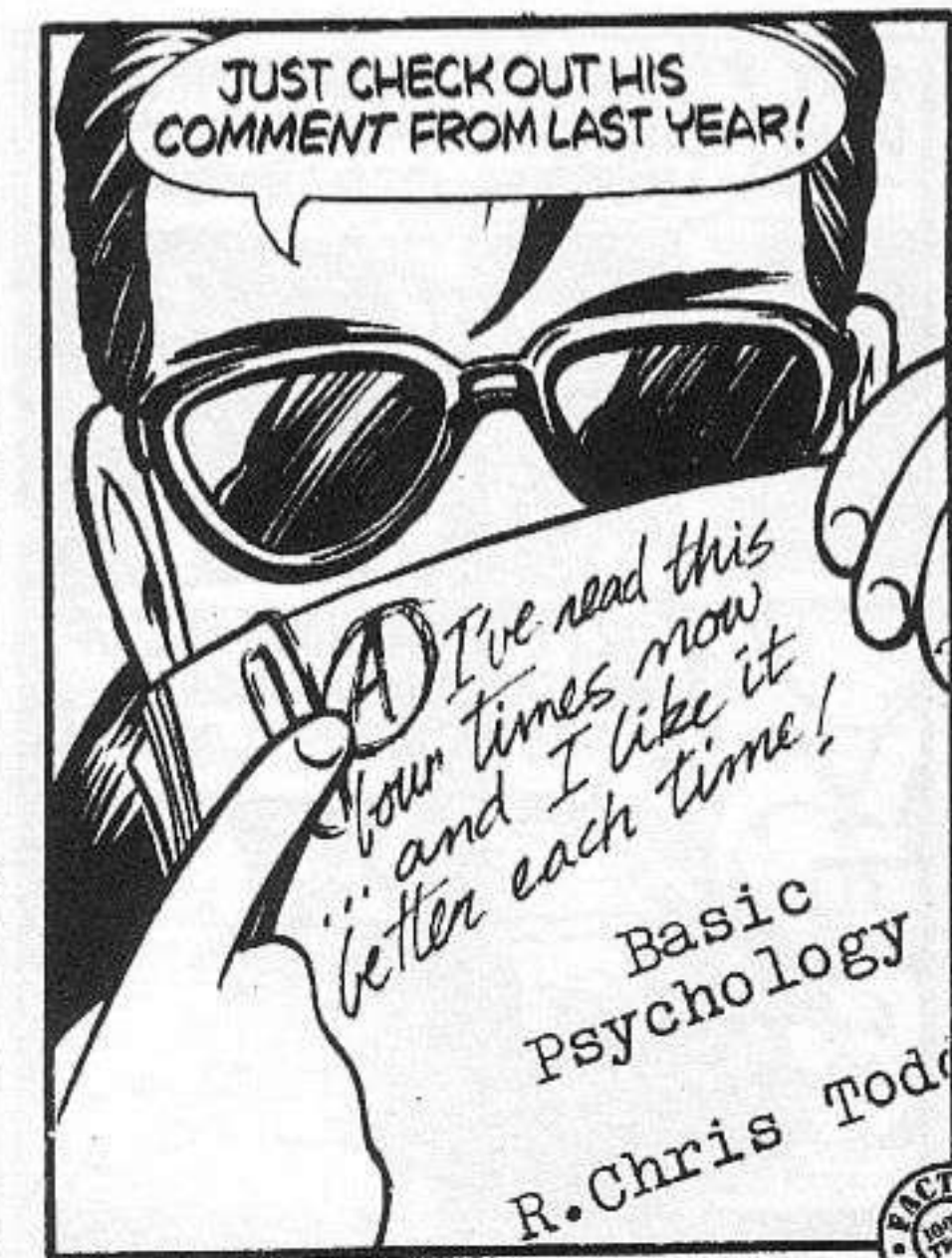
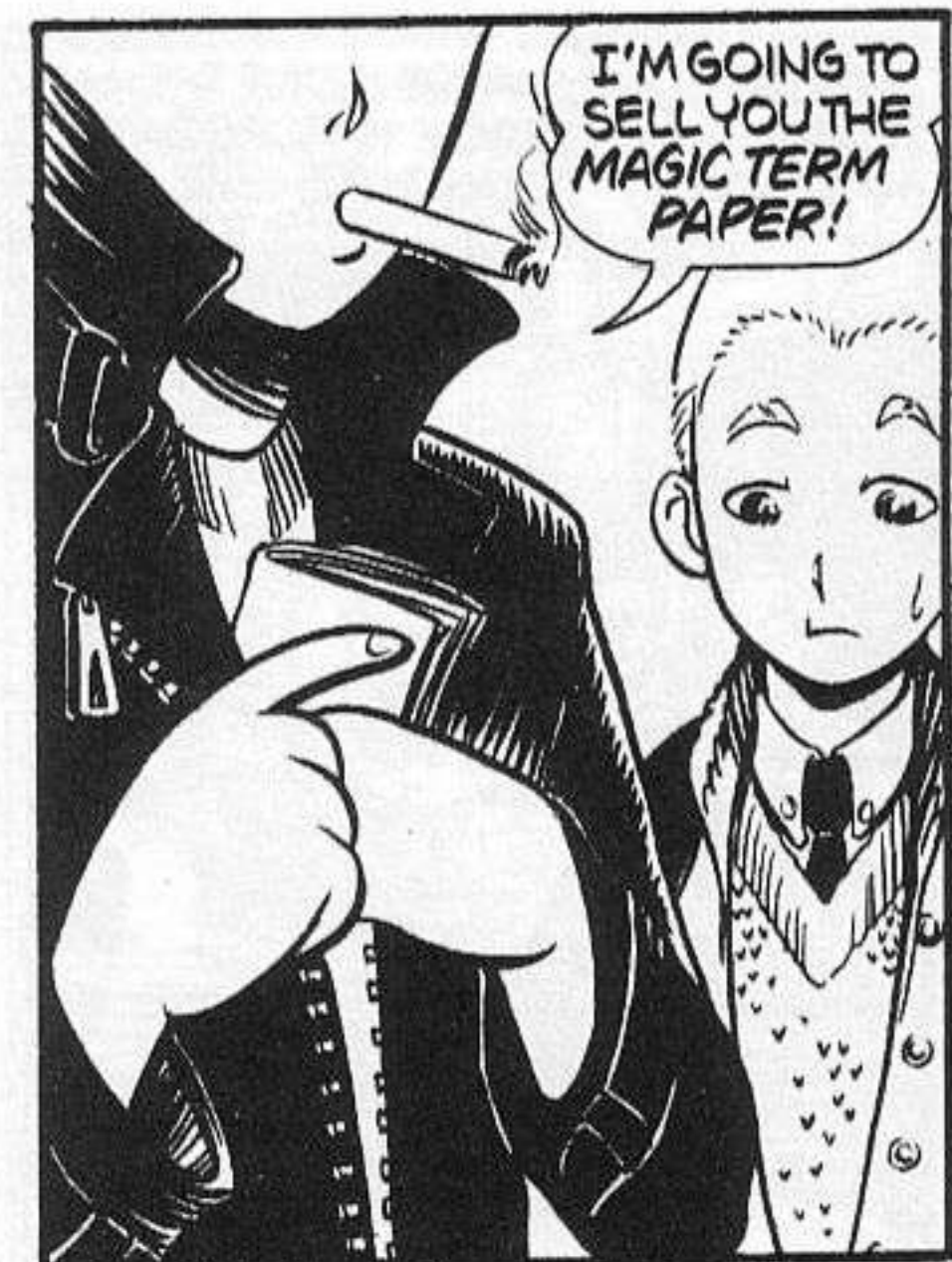
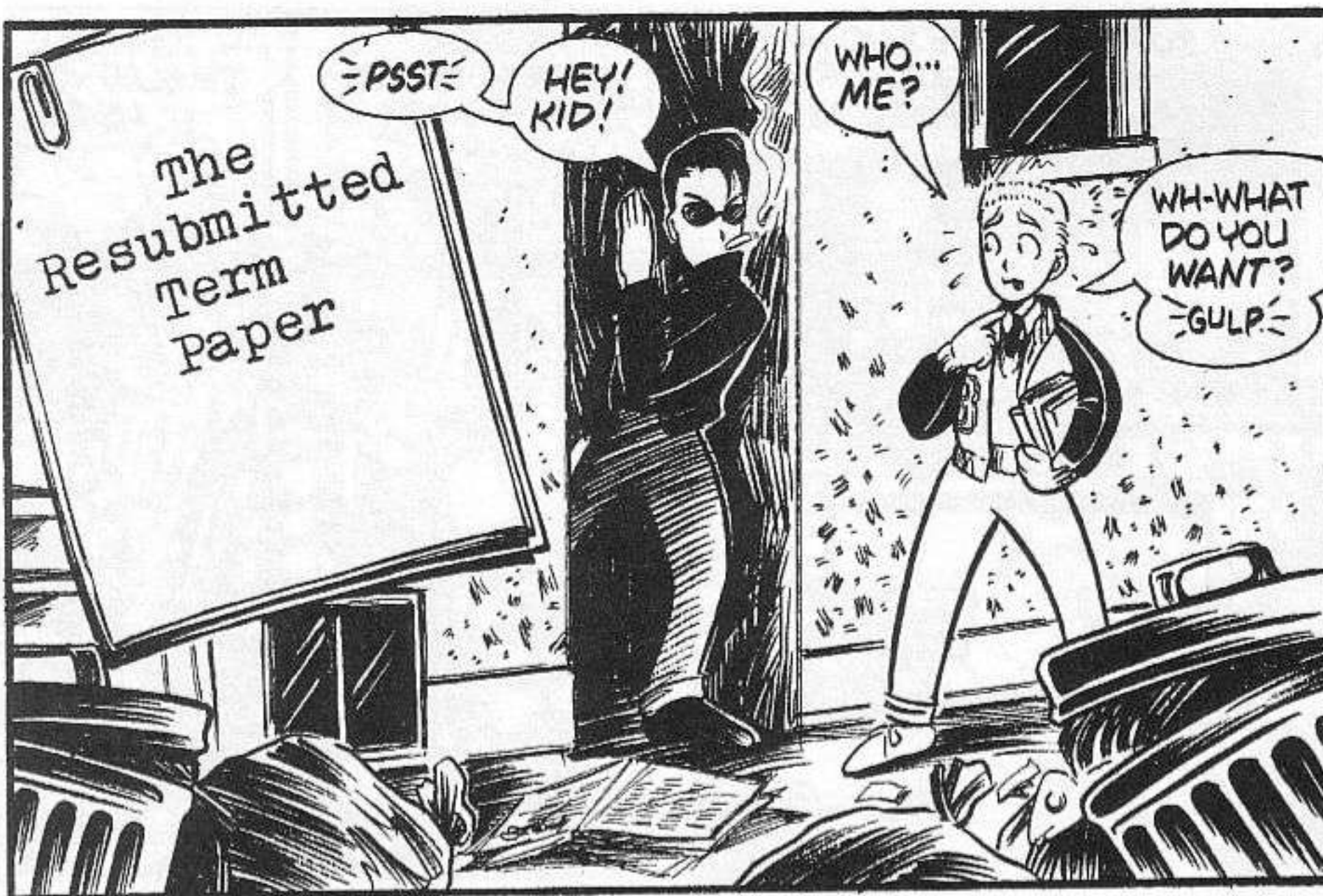
...THEIR TEACHER TOOK HIS PLACE ON TOP OF THE WASTEBASKET AT THE BEGINNING OF EACH CLASS...



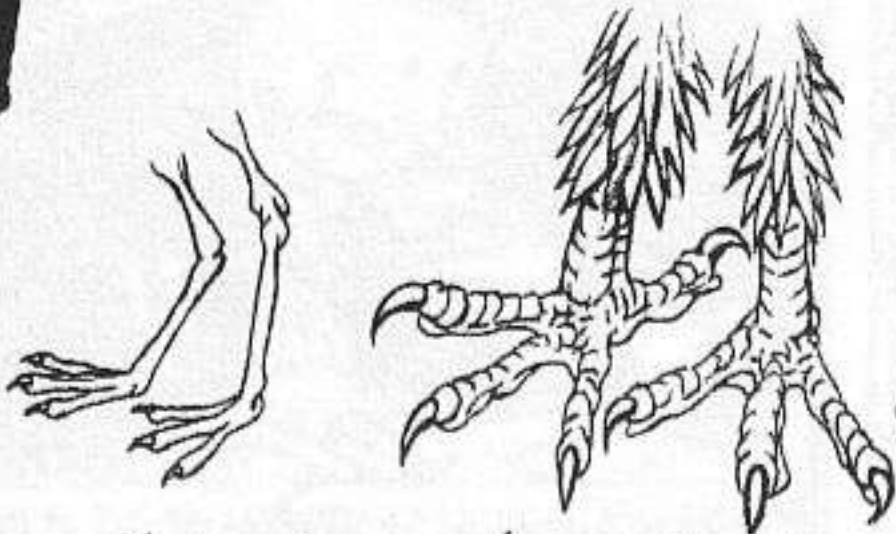
...AS SURE AS A PERFORMING CHIMP RIDES THE TRICYCLE TO GET A BANANA FROM ITS MASTER.





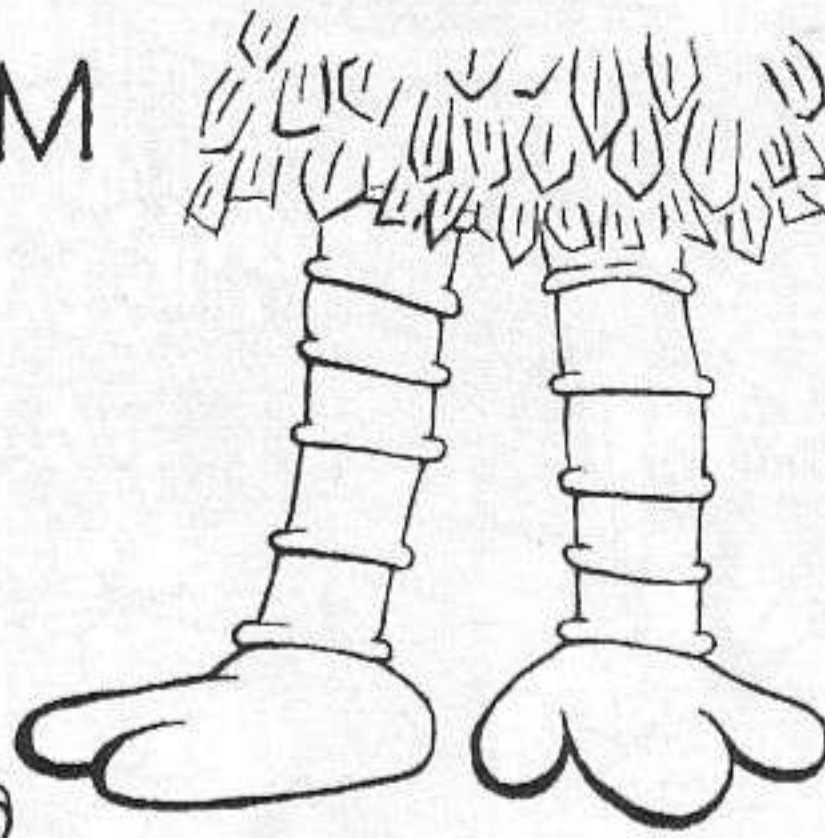


THE FINAL EXAM

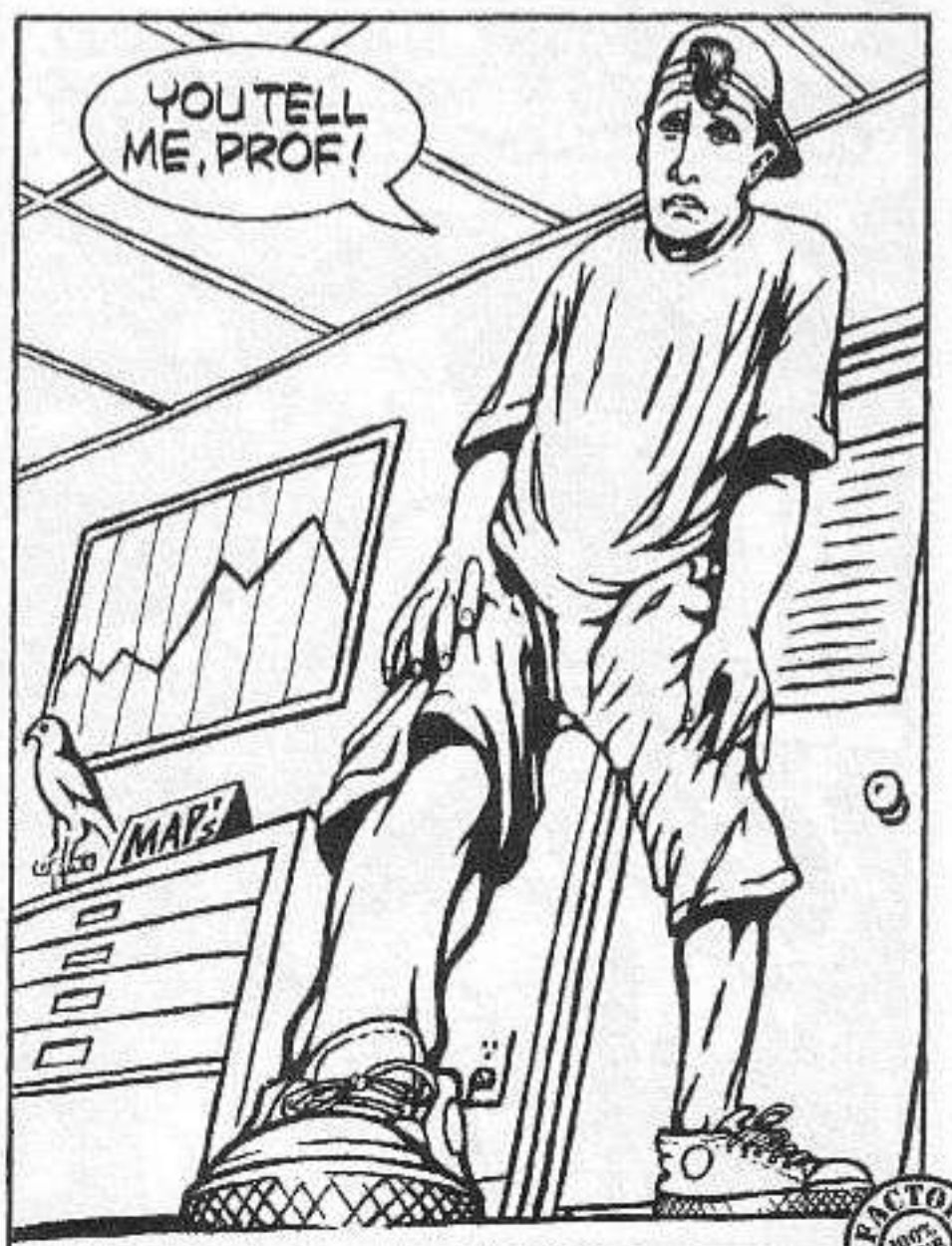
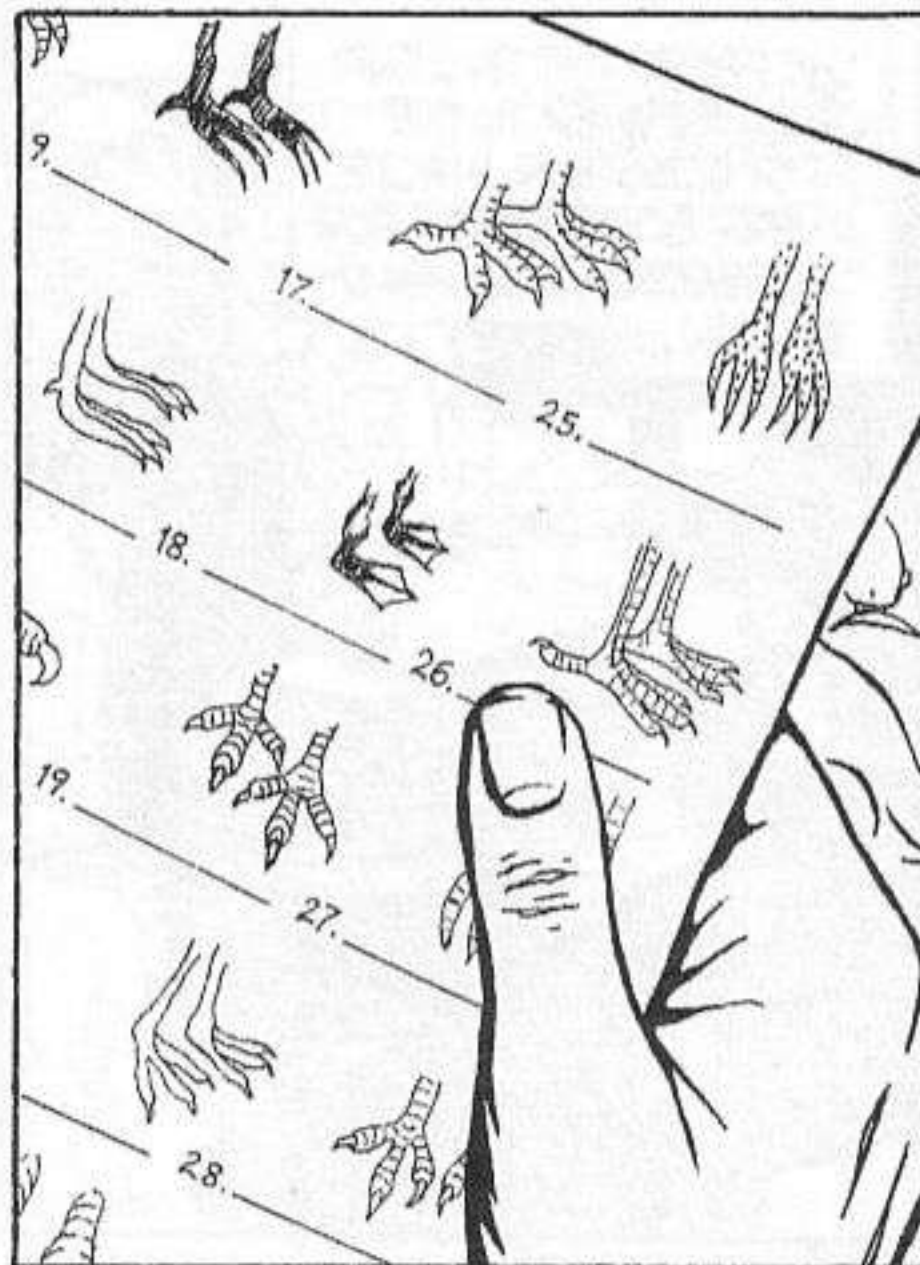


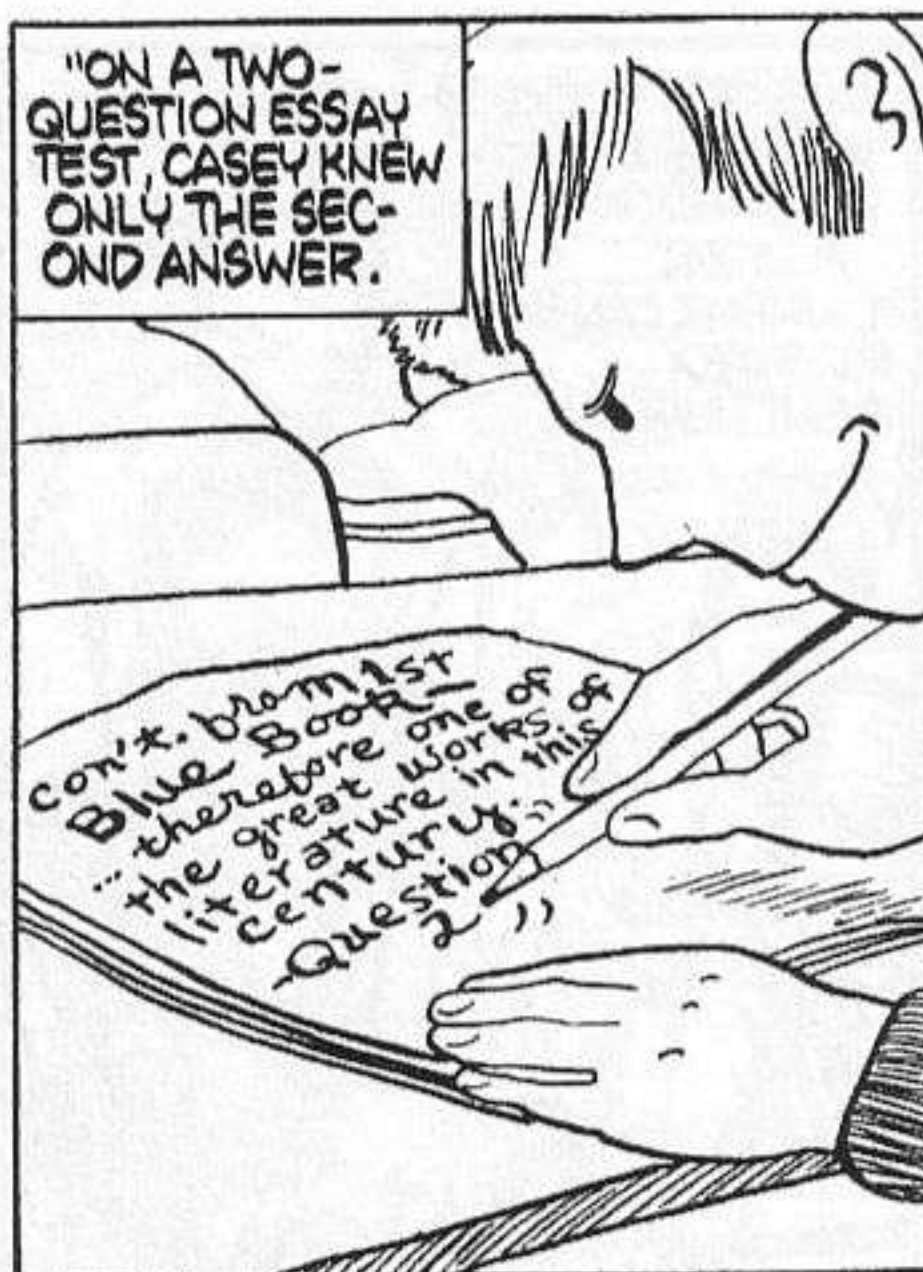
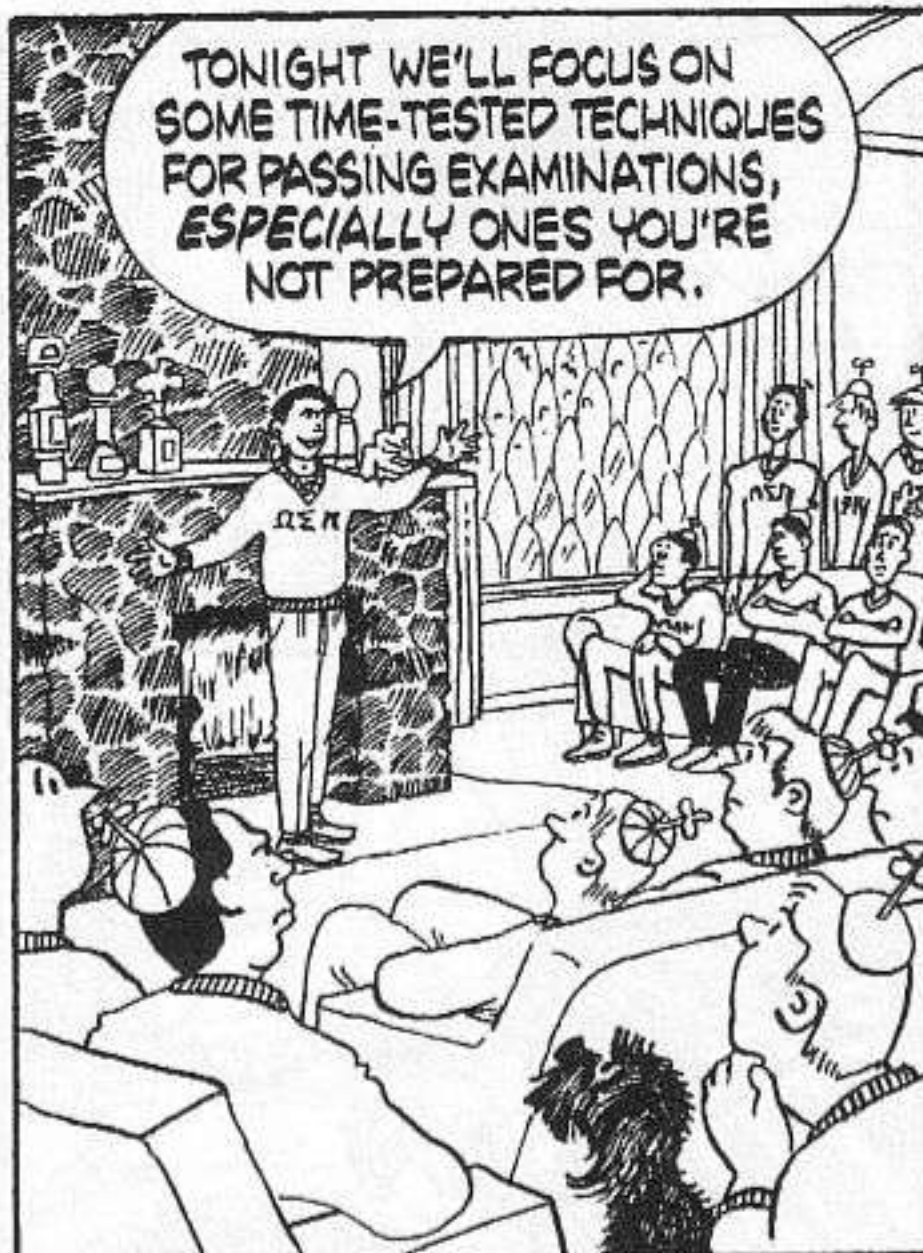
small bird

large bird



big bird





"WRITE A LETTER TO YOUR MOM IN THE BLUE BOOK AND EXPLAIN THAT YOU HAVEN'T WRITTEN IN A WHILE BECAUSE YOU'VE BEEN STUDYING SO HARD."



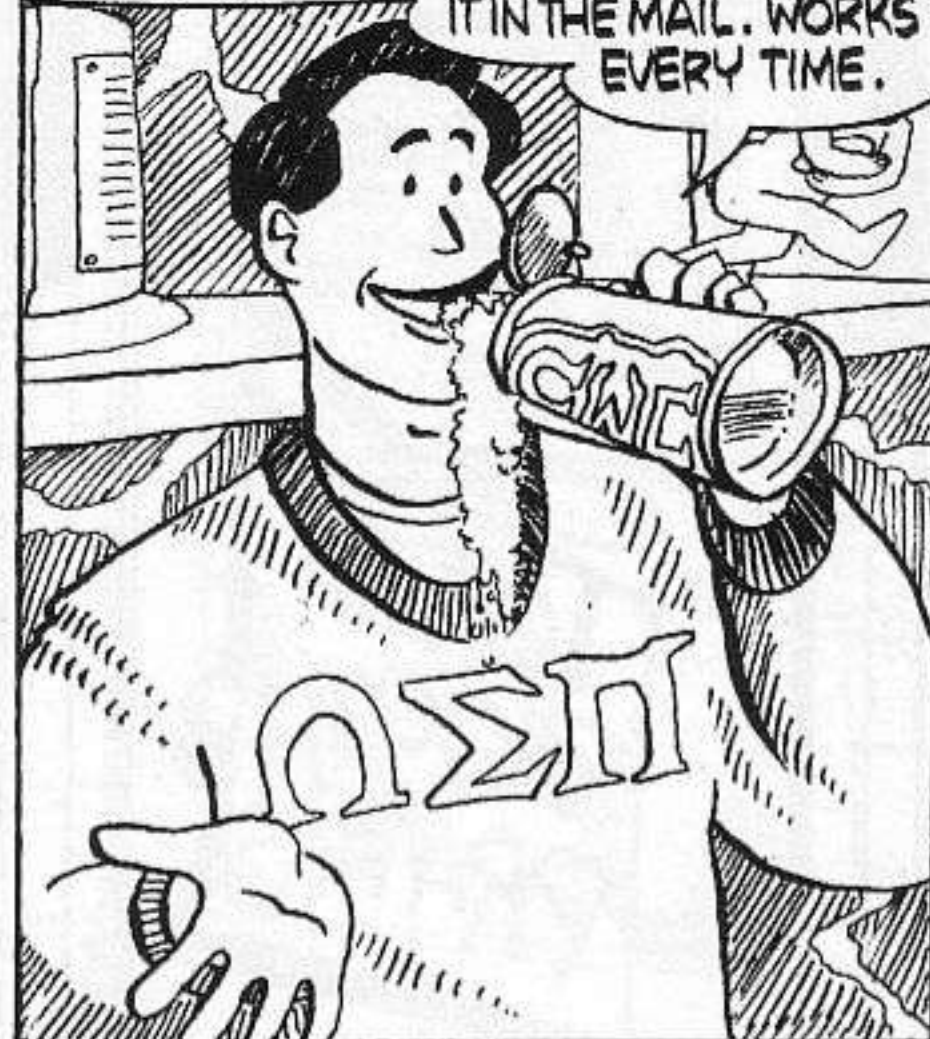
"BE SURE TO MENTION HOW MUCH YOU LIKE THE INSTRUCTOR, AND HOW WELL YOU FEEL YOU'VE DONE ON THE EXAM."

"HAND IN THE BLUE BOOK WITH THE LETTER TO YOUR INSTRUCTOR."



"THEN, AFTER CLASS, COMPOSE YOUR EXAM ESSAY AND MAIL IT TO YOUR MOM."

WHEN THE TEACHER DISCOVERS YOUR "MISTAKE", OFFER TO HAVE YOUR MOTHER SEND THE ESSAY BACK WHEN SHE GETS IT IN THE MAIL. WORKS EVERY TIME.



"THIS LAST TECHNIQUE WILL APPLY ONLY IN CERTAIN SITUATIONS ..."



ALL WRITING MUST STOP WHEN I CALL "TIME." ANYONE WHO DOES NOT STOP IMMEDIATELY WILL AUTOMATICALLY FAIL.

"AT THE END OF THE PERIOD..."



TIME!

HERE'S MINE. SORRY I TOOK AN EXTRA MINUTE...

DON'T BOTHER; YOU'VE ALREADY FAILED. I CALLED TIME AND I MEANT IT.



DO YOU KNOW WHO I AM?

NO.



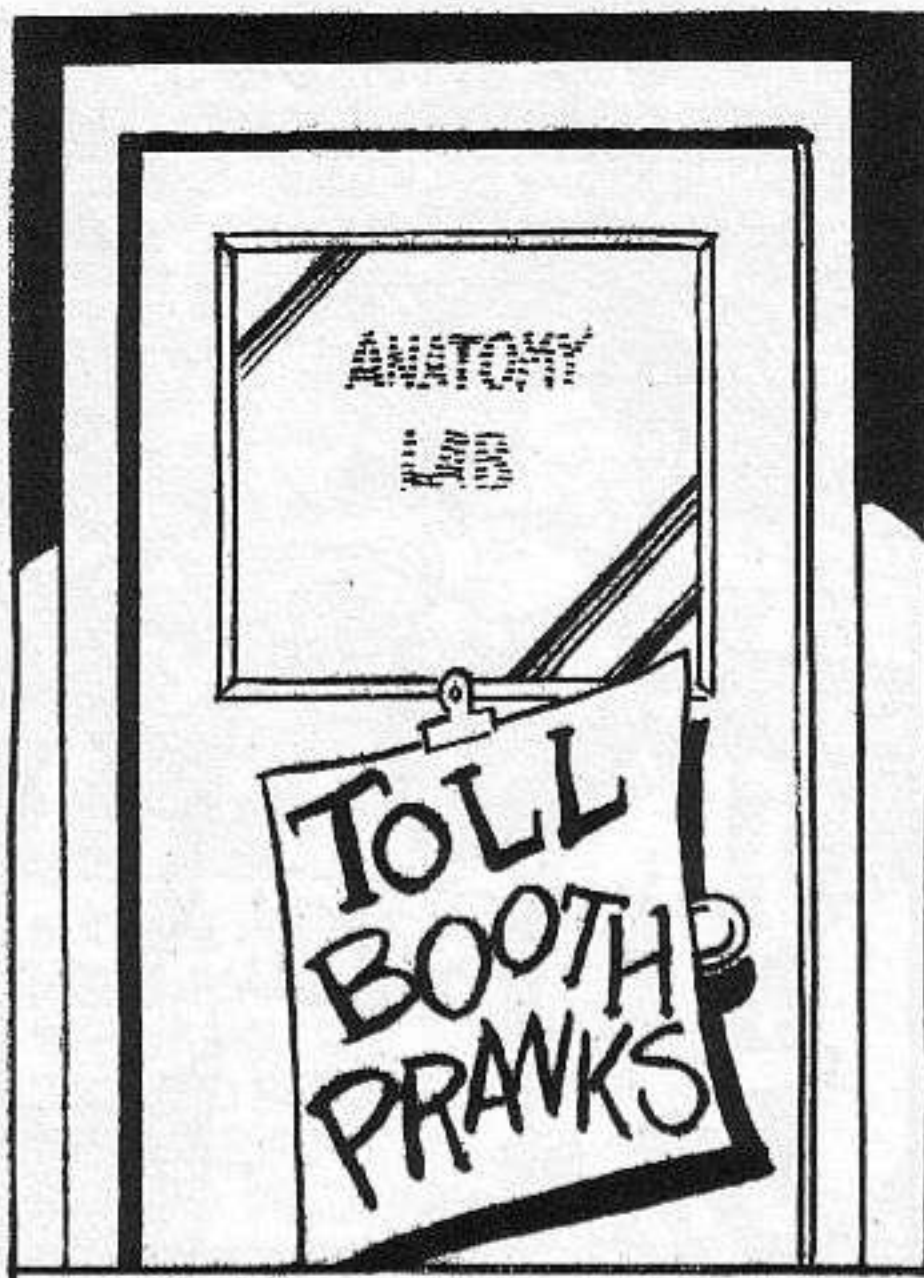
GOOD.



FWIP!

SO THAT'S IT FOR TONIGHT. NEXT WEEK'S TOPIC: POWER DRINKING!

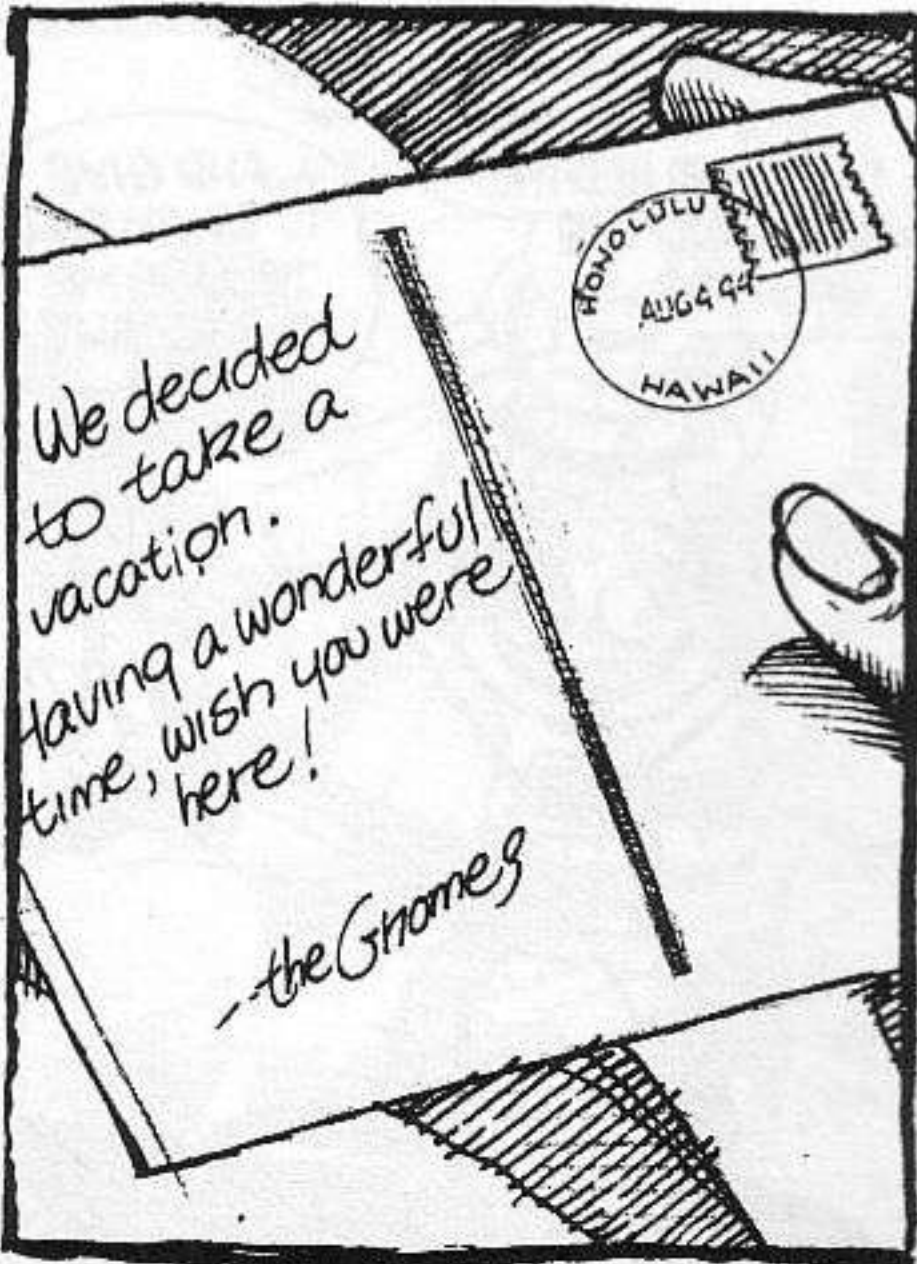
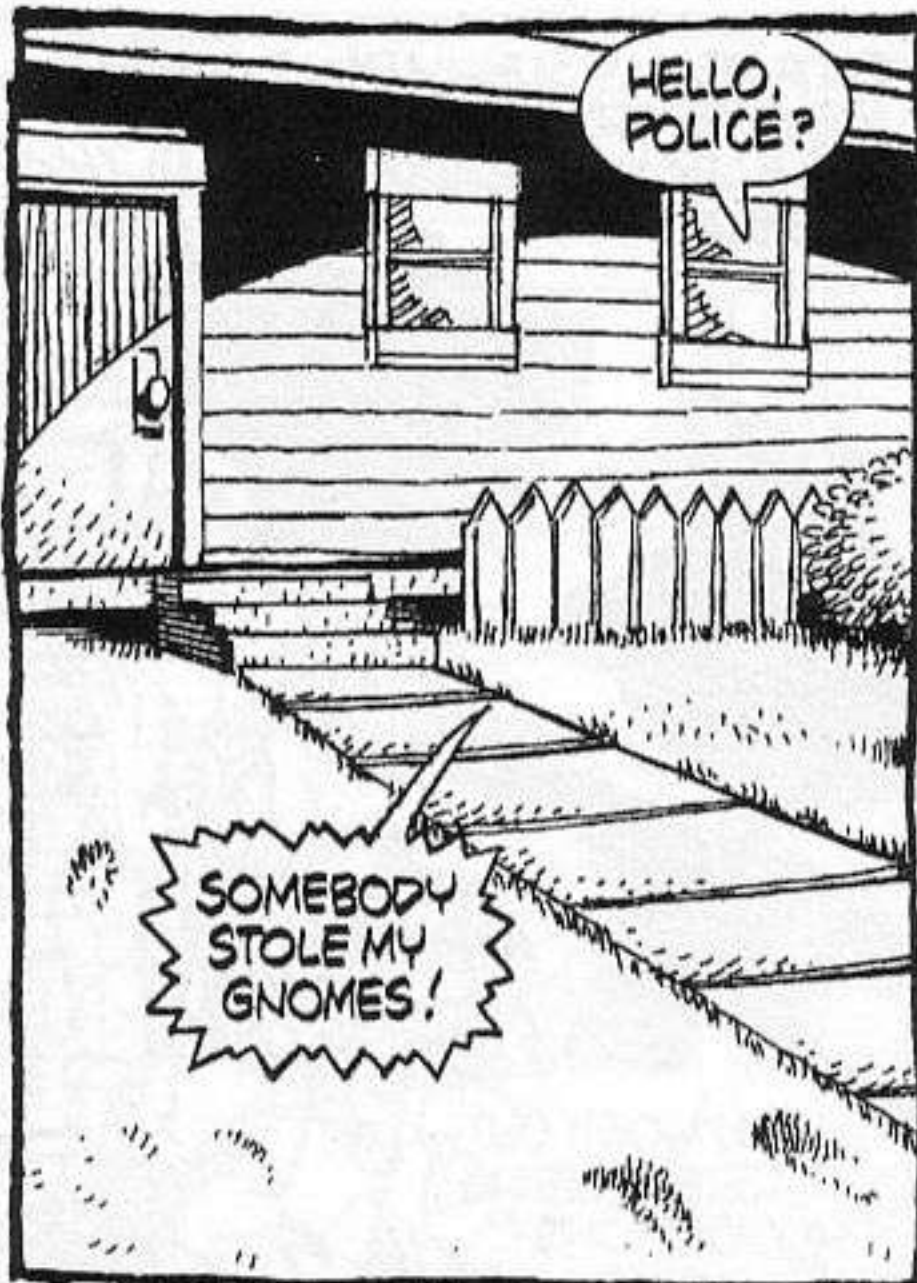




Fingerprints from the hand were traced to a Mr. Higgins who had passed away and donated his body to medical science.

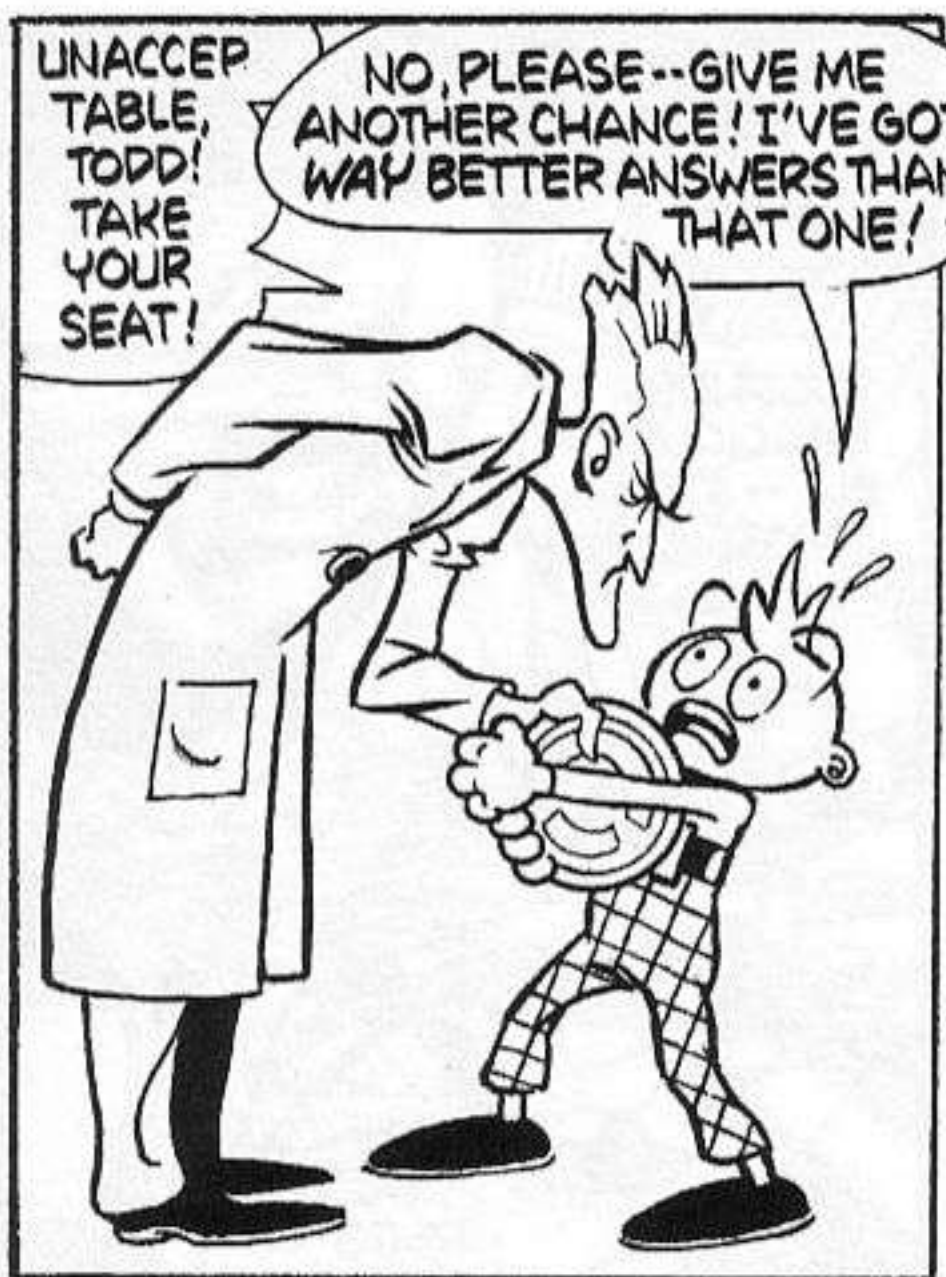
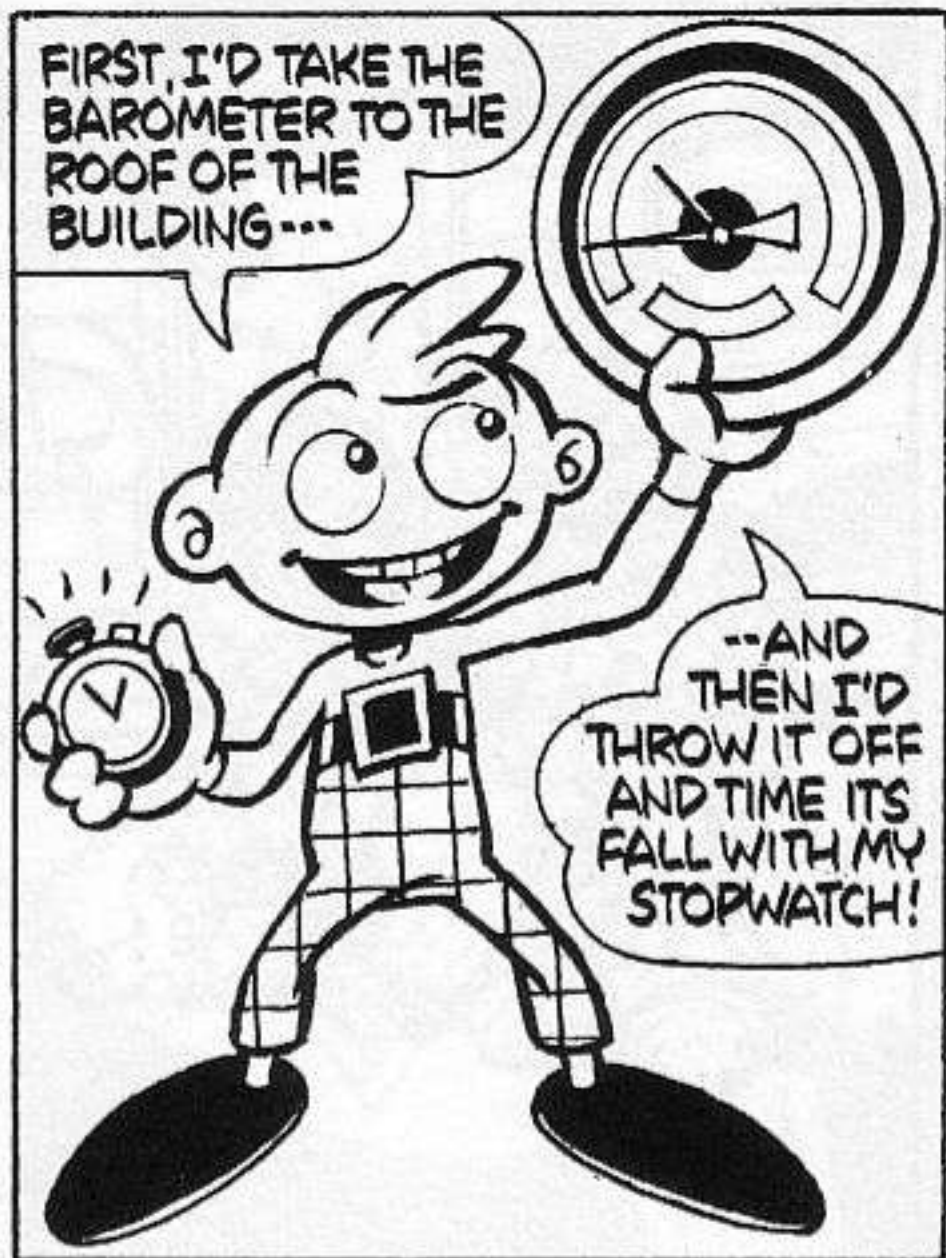
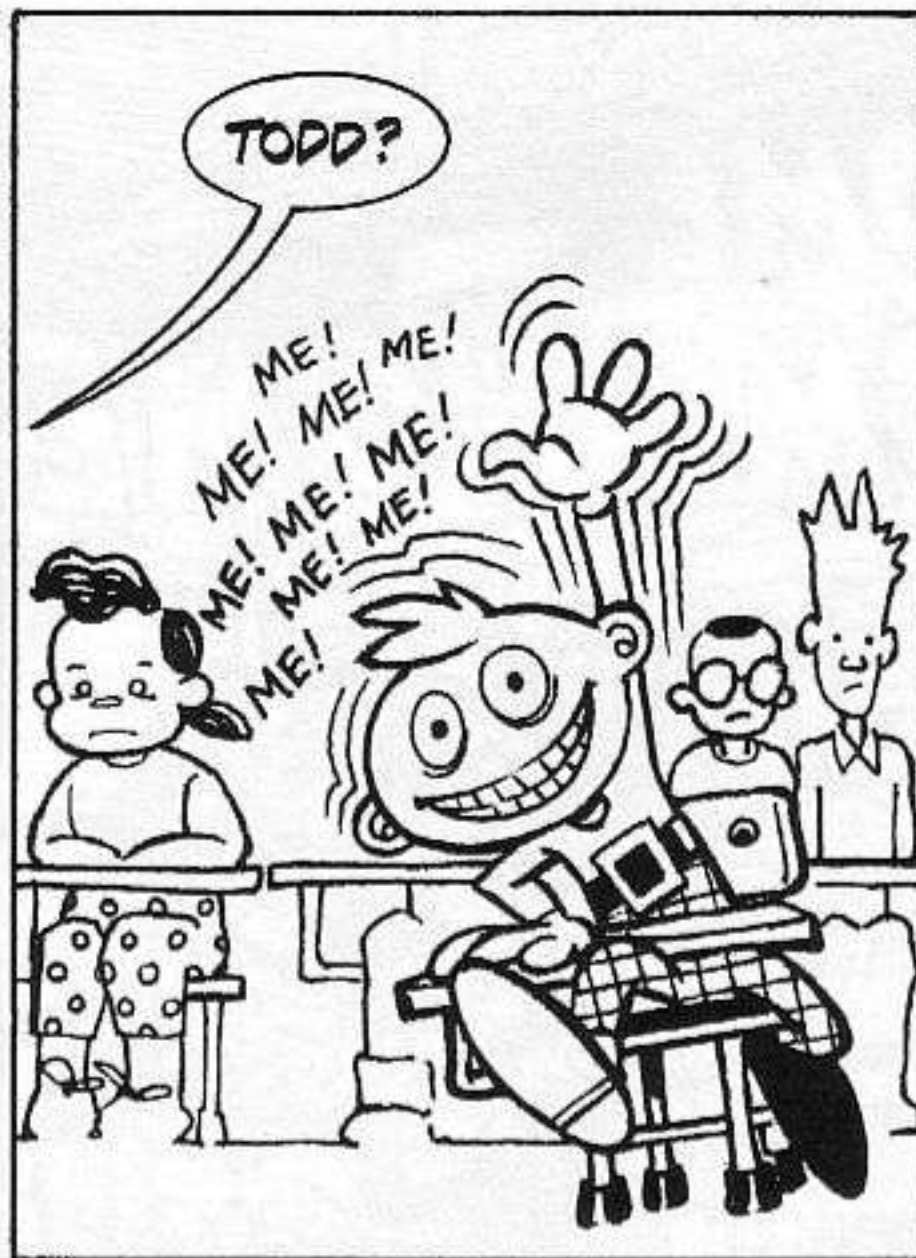


The school that received the cadaver was contacted and the students responsible were convicted of transporting body parts across a state line.



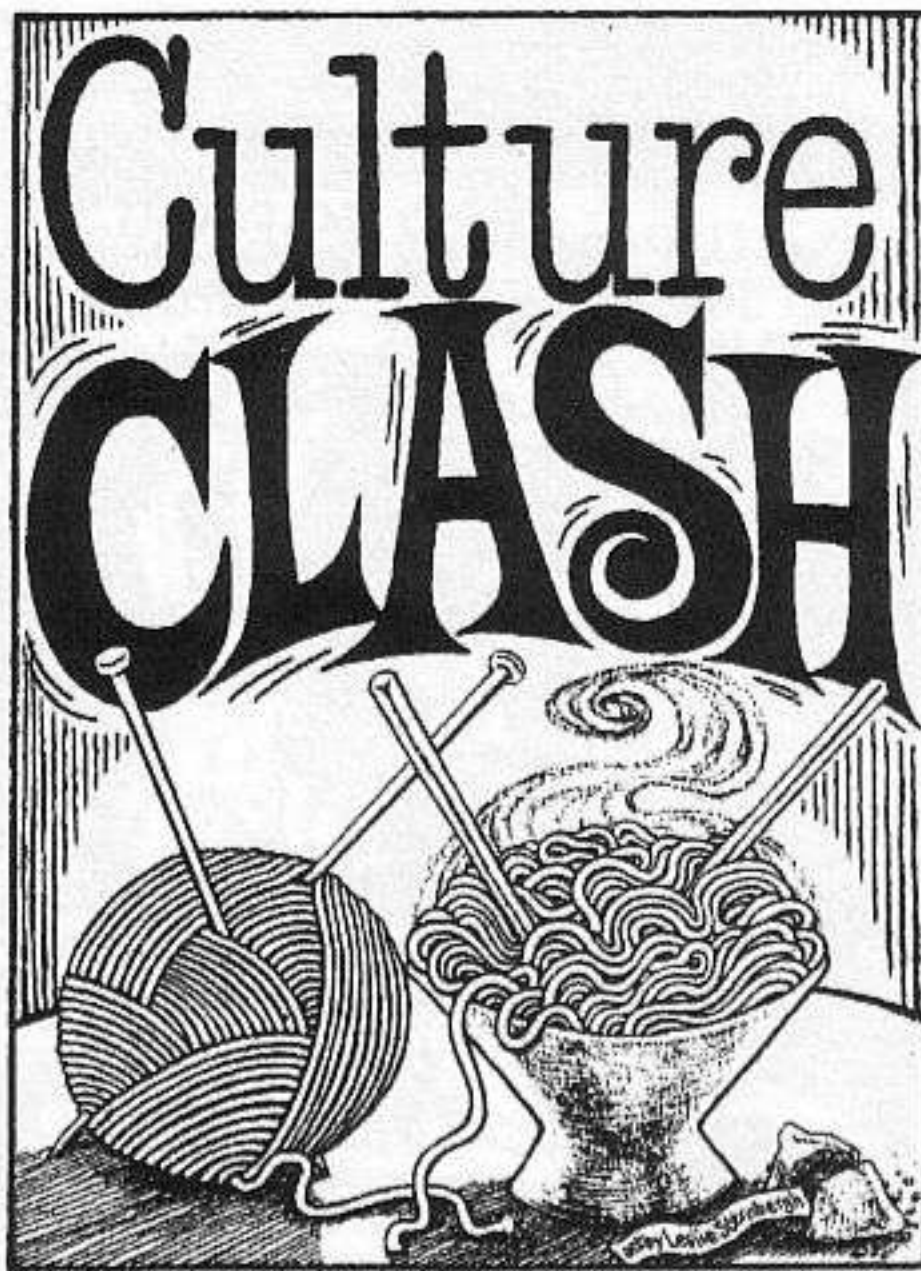
The Barometer Problem

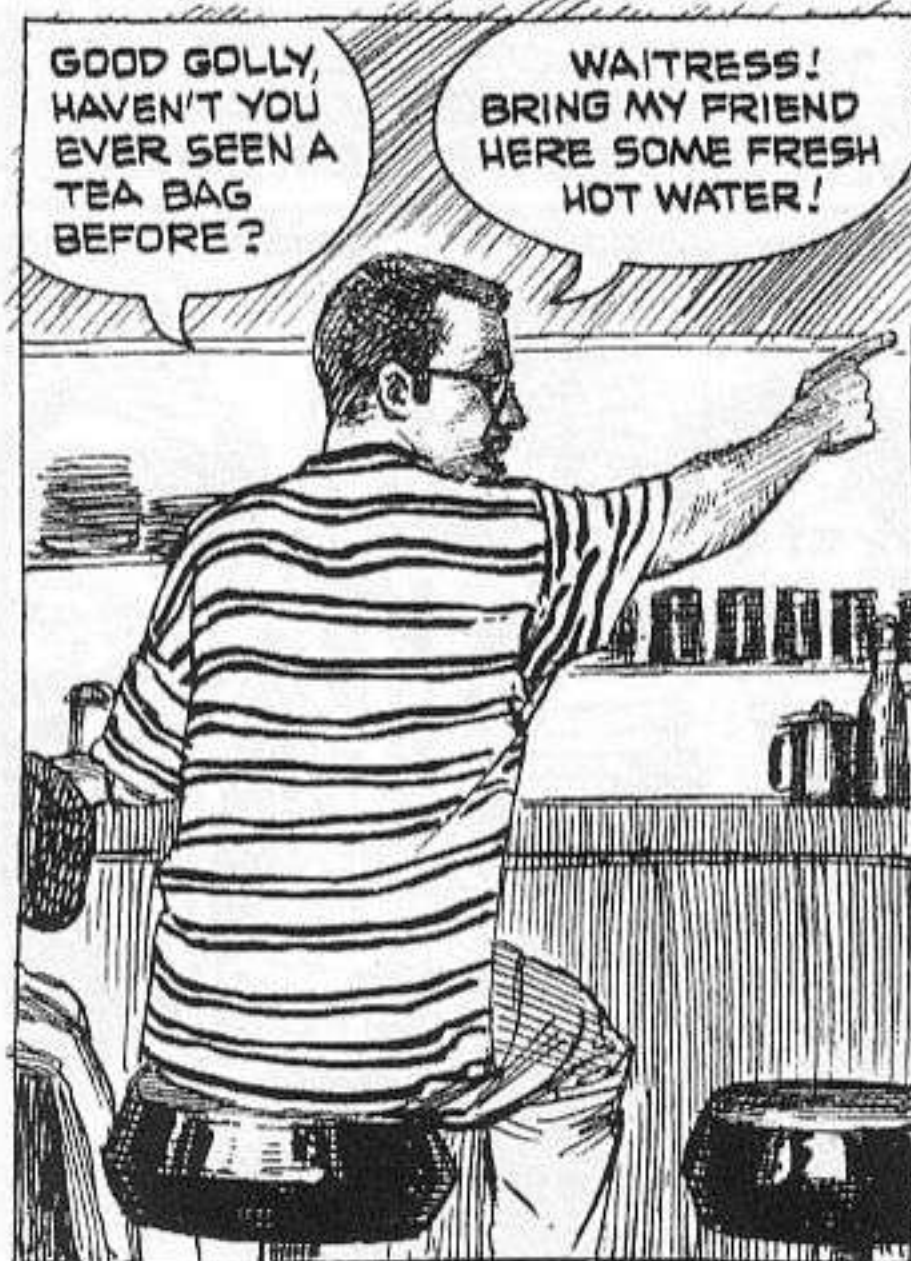
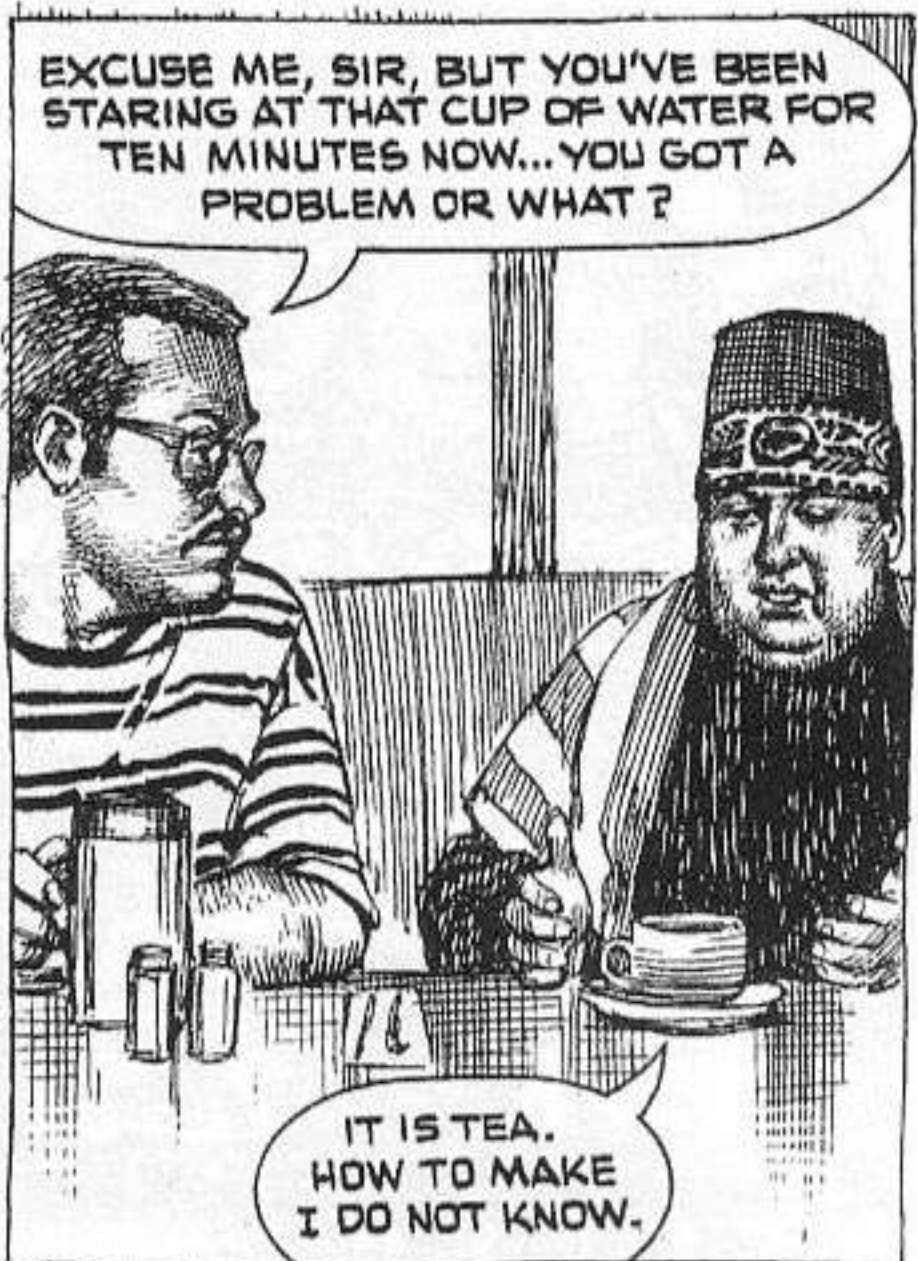
NOW, CLASS--DO ANY OF YOU KNOW HOW TO MEASURE THE HEIGHT OF A TALL BUILDING USING A BAROMETER?



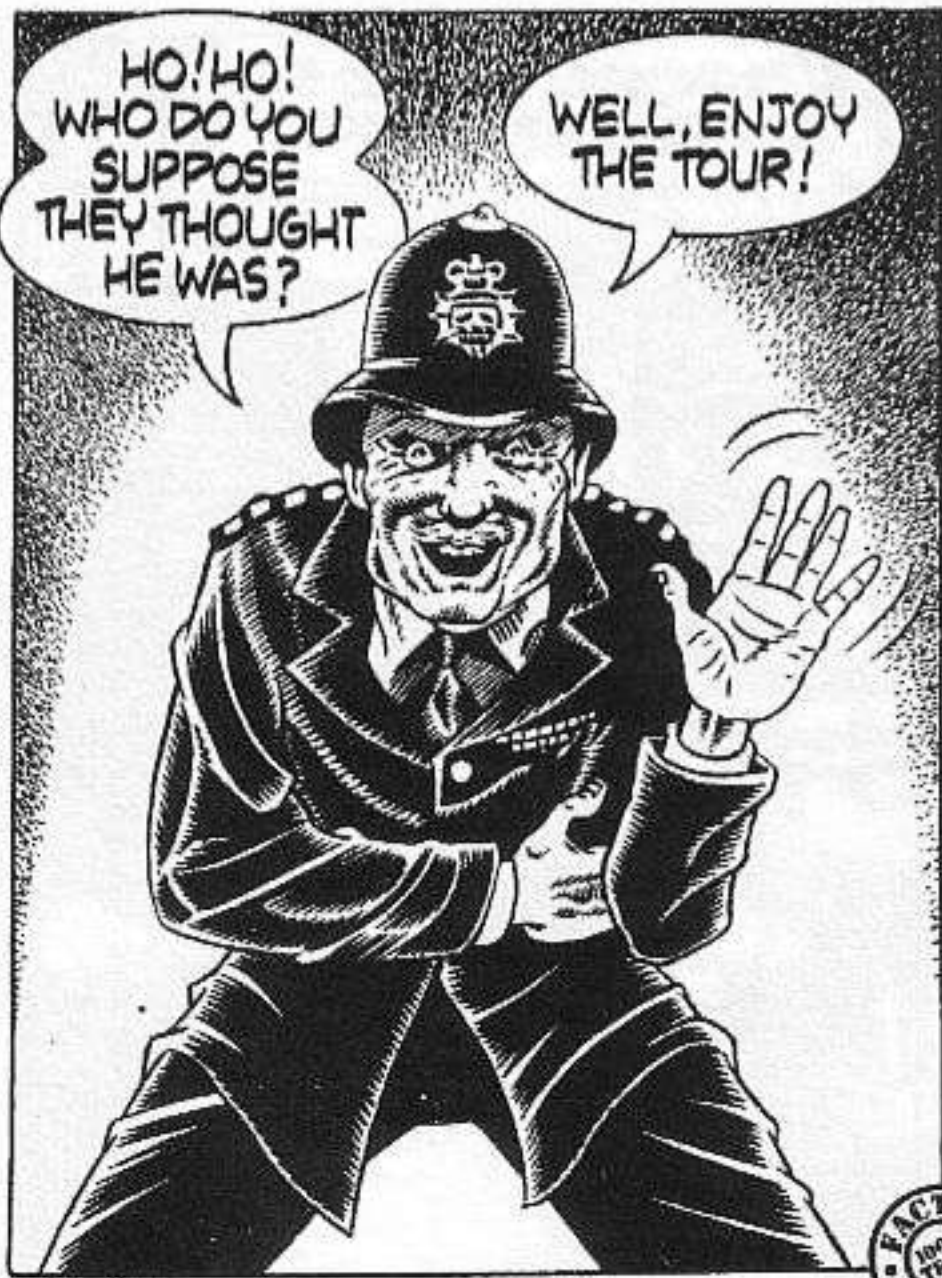
"The HOMEMADE LIE DETECTOR"







The Obedient Tourists



WRITERS

ROBERT LOREN FLEMING

Robert Loren Fleming wrote *Thriller*, *Underworld*, *Ambush Bug*, *Aquaman*, *Ragman*, *Eclipso*, and *Valor* for DC. He's currently scripting *Legend of Supreme* for Image Comics and *The Cowl* for Marvel.

ROBERT F. BOYD, Jr.

Robert lives in Brooklyn, hosts an occasional radio program on WFMU-FM, contributes travel stories to *The New York Times* and photographs endangered commercial architecture. This is his first endeavor in comics.

LETTERS

STEVE SMITH

Steve has been using the alphabet for many years. Other examples of his penmanship and pictures may be found in *Negative Burn*, *Aesop's Desecrated Fables*, and along the 101 freeway. He is also the artist of "The Toothbrush Story" in this volume. (Page 169)

GAIL BECKETT

Now a resident of northeast Georgia, Gail has worked as a letterer and colorist on the *Flash Gordon* and *Spider-Man* newspaper strips, and on comics by Dark Horse, Marvel, DC, Malibu, etc.

ARTISTS

ART ADAMS

Art Adams is currently working on *Monkey Man and O'Brien*, published by Dark Horse Comics, under the Legend imprint. (Page 47)

CHARLES ADLARD

A British comic artist who works in a small studio in the countryside with no social life except for his imaginary comic friends. It's all very sad, really... (Page 17)

CHRISTIAN ALAMY

"The French Guy" managed to draw *Lobo's Back* #4, *Lobo Annual* #1, and *Showcase '94* #1 and #2 in only two years! He lives in Brooklyn with his girl, Katerina, and his dog, Kuma. (Page 141)

GARY AMARO

Gary Amaro, tweed-clad and filled with *bonhomie*, is our generation's most ebullient Al Jolson impersonator and sous chef. (Page 75)

BRENT ANDERSON

June 15, 1955. Born. Grew. Read. Drew. Wrote. Drew more. Read comics. Wrote and drew comics. Published fanzines. 1976. Professional. Deadlines. 1994. Married. Tired. 'Bye. (Page 86)

TERRY AUSTIN

Award-winning inker of *X-Men*, *Star Wars*, *Batman vs. Predator II*, and more; writer of *Cloak and Dagger*, *Power Pack*, and *Excalibur*, penciller of comic book covers, *National Lampoon*, etc. "Will cartoon for cash." (Page 160)

MARK BADGER

Mark Badger has drawn lots of comics. Along with the coolest cartoonists in the world, his work appears in *Toy Piano: The Comic Just For The Fun Of It*. (Page 24)

GLENN BARR

Glenn's recent projects have included the graphic novels and comics *Cliff's Wild Life*, *Technocracy Blues*, *Mars on Earth*, and the upcoming *Brooklyn Dreams* for Paradox Press. His animation work includes *Ren and Stimpy* and *Baby Huey*. (Page 46)

DAN BARRY

A Golden Age artist who wrote and drew the *Flash Gordon* strip for 30 years, Dan recently did the comic book adaptation of *Young Indiana Jones*. He has also had about 150 showings as a fine artist. (Page 104)

HILARY BARTA

Hilary Barta is the culprit responsible for *Plastic Man* and *Stupid*. He spends most of his time walking his dog and thinking of reasons to avoid work. (Pages 108-109)

TERRY BEATTY

Terry Beatty's credits include *Ms. Tree*, *Wild Dog*, *Johnny Dynamite* (art), *Scary Monsters* (cover paintings), *Elfquest: New Blood* (script), and numerous short stories co-written with his mystery novelist wife, Wendi Lee. (Page 83)

ALLAN BEDNAR

I would love to say that philosophy, comparative religion, and literature were my other loves as well as comics, but it would sound too pretentious. (Page 204)

GREGORY BENTON

Gregory's illustrations have been seen in the *The New York Times* and *The Village Voice*. He self-publishes his own comix in a magazine called *Self Induced Narcosis*. He is 5' 4". (Page 176)

RON BOYD

Ron has been working on the *Legion of Super-Heroes* and other comics for the last four years. He and Kimberly are expecting their first baby in September. (Page 72)

RUSSELL BRAUN

Raised by wolves. (Page 154)

DANIEL BRERETON

Dan's first project, *The Black Terror*, started as a school assignment and ended as a new career painting comic books. Since then, he has illustrated comics, trading cards, and covers, and the upcoming *Nocturnals* for Malibu. (Page 191)

DAVID BREWER

David Brewer is a 23-year-old from Maine. He recently finished a story for Image called *Extremely Young Blood* (the characters portrayed as kids). (Page 50)

M.D. BRIGHT

M.D. Bright has pencilled *Green Lantern*, *G.I. Joe*, *Iron Man*, *Valor*, and *Power Man & Iron Fist*. Currently he pencils *Icon* for Milestone Media. (Page 189)

PAT BRODERICK

You know, I hate bios. I've always hated them. But Paradox Press insisted I supply one! And thirty words or less! Now I ask you, how can a person write — (Page 162)

TIM BURGARD

Currently Tim Burgard is storyboarding for big-budget movies, but has drawn, inked and/or written comics for DC, Marvel, Malibu and many others, with still more to come. (Page 200)

GUY BURWELL

Sagittarius, 12-13-65. This painter, penciller, and more has worked with Dark Horse Comics, A&M Records, Caliber, Boneyard, and others. Peace to the world. (Page 150)

ROBBIE BUSCH

Robbie Busch is a cartoonin' fool who has been known to delve into other artistic ventures. He's very happy that *Instant Piano* will see the light of day. (Page 133)

DON CAMERON

Since my break-up with Madonna, I have kept a low profile working as assistant to Howard "Pops" Chaykin. I am currently developing a Saturday morning cartoon based on the Suzanne Somers product, called *Thighmasters of the Universe*. (Page 182)

STEVE CARR

From *Conan* to *X-Factor*, from *Gameboy* to *Prince*, from *Silver Surfer* to *Green Lantern*, I've just about done it all. Also, special thanks to David Dace, whose pencils contributed enormously. (Page 119)

JOHN C. CEBOLLERO

Previous work: coloring on *X-O MANOWAR* #0, *Ninjak*, Topps trading cards, and several DC titles. This is John's first published sequential art. Future career goals: more pencilling opportunities — Please! (Page 118)

HOWARD CHAYKIN

Howard Chaykin pioneered the graphic novel form in the U.S. with *Empire*, *The Stars My Destination*, and *The Swords of Heaven*, *The Flowers of Hell*, and created the award-winning and influential *American Flagg!* and *Time²*. He served on staff as executive script consultant on *The Flash* and *Viper* TV series. His most recent work includes *The Devil's Workshop* for DC, *Midnight Men* for Marvel, and *Power and Glory* for Bravura. (Page 130)

DAVID CHELSEA

Read David Chelsea's ultra-revealing graphic novel *David Chelsea In Love*, published by Eclipse. David's next book is *Welcome to the Zone*, from Kitchen Sink. (Page 64)

DAVID J. CHLYSTEK

I would like to dedicate this story (the artwork part) to my grandmother. Without her, I would never have had the desire to be an artist. (Page 20)

SCOTT COHN

I'm twenty, I'm from Philly, and when I'm not off saving the world I spend my time going to The School for Visual Arts in New York. (Page 186)

TOMM COKER

I live in California and have worked for Marvel, DC, and Dark Horse. Upcoming projects: *Midnight Sons* for Marvel, and a Harlan Ellison anthology for Dark Horse. Special thanks to Larry Ross. (Page 174)

MICHAEL COLLINS

Raised by Wolves (name of the local soccer team), Mike Collins now lives in a land that features a dragon on its flag. He draws and writes comic books. (Page 21)

JOHN COULTHART

John's previous work includes *Hawkwind* album cover designs and comics adaptations of H. P. Lovecraft stories. He is currently drawing the controversial Lord Horror epic *Reverbstorm* for Savoy Books. (Page 58)

DENYS COWAN

Denys worked on *The Question*, *Batman*, *Prince*, and *Deathlok*, among many other titles for Marvel and DC. He co-created the Milestone line of comics, draws *Hardware*, and is creative director at Milestone. (Page 166)

THOMAS CRIELLY

Previous comics work: trading cards and covers for Marvel U.K., and *Psychomancers* and *Relentless*, published by London Cartoon Centre. Hobbies include 5-a-side football and working out. (Page 194)

SCOTT CUNNINGHAM

Scott Cunningham is a regular contributor to *Heavy Metal* and *The Village Voice*, and to the now-defunct *Hyena*. He co-edits the political underground *World War 3 Illustrated*. (Page 76)

DONALD DAVID

Donald was imprisoned in the bowels of a Canadian art school for attempting to prove that comics were a valid medium for self-expression. To this day, he is haunted by the experience. (Page 27)

AL DAVISON

A black belt in karate who performs his own plays, Al Davison lives in London with his lover Maggie. Born paralyzed (spina-bifida), he wasn't expected to live/walk. Life's funny sometimes. (Page 15)

STEPHEN DeSTEFANO

Stephen DeStefano was born in 1966 in Queens, New York. He became a professional cartoonist at the age of fifteen, and by sixteen began regretting that decision like any old pro. (Page 53)

GUSTAVO DESIMONE

I live in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and got involved in comics when I was nine. I like stories with hard-hitting characters such as Lobo and Batman, and Erika Eleniak. (Page 190)

DAVE DeVRIES

Dave DeVries has illustrated for thirty years, producing countless award-winning comics and the successful children's book *Get Your Dog Out of My Crotch*. Unfortunately, this happened in another dimension. (Page 167)

D'ISRAELI D'EMON DRAUGHTSMAN

D'Israeli lives in Sheffield, England, with his Mummy and a nice Kitty. He was once nearly killed when a lesbian dressed as Tina Turner fell on his head. (Page 114)

FELIKS DOBRIN

I was born in Kiev and like to draw from my childhood. There was published couple of books by me: *Welcome Danger!*, *Dog's Kingdom*, and *The Dutch Schultz Story*, etc. Two years ago I came to the United States. I illustrated for DC Comics, and also won national Tektronix Print Illustration Contest in 1994. (Page 94)

EVAN DORKIN

Evan's cartoons have disgraced such magazines as *Esquire*, *Reflex*, and *Deadline*. His ongoing comic titles from Slave Labor Graphics include *Milk and Cheese*, *Hectic Planet*, and *Dork!* (Page 41)

RANDY DuBURKE

Randy is a cover artist for DC Comics, having worked on *Animal Man*, *Darkstars*, *Ms. Tree*, and *The Shadow*. He is also the artist on *Hunter's Heart*, a graphic novel to be published in the Paradox Mystery line. (Page 198)

LEO DURAÑONA

Leo Durañona was born in Buenos Aires, Argentina. His past work includes DC's *House of Horrors* and Warren's *Creepy* and *Eerie*, and *Race of Scorpions*, *Indiana Jones*, and *Predator* for Dark Horse. (Page 183)

KIERON DWYER

A professional for seven years, Kieron has pencilled, inked, colored and/or painted *Captain America*, *Batman*, *Robin*, *Hellraiser*, and *Lobo*. He is very proud of his work on *The Torch of Liberty*. (Page 40)

DUNCAN EAGLESON

The series of space-time events collectively labeled "Duncan Eagleson" have demonstrated a variety of reproducible results: his work has appeared in *Sandman* and *Shade* (Vertigo), *Storytellers* (Piranha), and *The Witching Hour* (Millennium). (Page 124)

TOMMY LEE EDWARDS

Tommy Lee Edwards resides in Los Angeles with his fiancée Melissa and their two cats. His previous work includes *System Shock*; he's currently pencilling a miniseries for DC/Milestone. (Page 155)

HUNT EMERSON

Hunt Emerson has drawn "underground" comics for twenty years, including Knockabout Comics' *Lady Chatterly's Lover*, *The Rime of The Ancient Mariner*, and the highly acclaimed *Casanova's Last Stand*. (Page 10)

JOHN ESTES

John Christian Estes is a graduate of the Academy of Art College, San Francisco. Primarily a painter, he's done two graphic novels, *Streets* (DC), and *Tales to Astonish* (Marvel), trading cards, and book covers. (Pages 164-165)

JIM FERN

Jim started as an inker on various Marvel titles in 1983. He began pencilling in 1987, and has drawn *L.E.G.I.O.N '90*, *Detective*, *Adventures of Superman*, and most recently the *Scarlett* series for DC. (Page 81)

BOB FINGERMAN

Bob Fingerman keeps his private life private, but would like to use this space to plug his series *White Like She*, published by Dark Horse Comics. (Page 168)

STUART FIRTH

Stuart Firth lives on the Scottish border.
Likes: motorcycles, old movies, peanut butter.
Dislikes: corruption, marzipan, filling in forms.
Ambition: To eat regular and pay the rent. (Page 148)

SHARY FLENNIKEN

Shary Flenniken is a cartoonist, screenwriter, and former editor of *National Lampoon*. Her latest project is *Seattle Laughs*, an anthology of original comic stories about her hometown. (Pages 208-209)

PHIL FOGLIO

Phil Foglio produces *Buck Godot — Zap Gun for Hire* and the Eisner Award-nominated *xxenophile* for his own company, Palliard Press, as well as art for the game *Magic*. (Page 107)

DAVY FRANCIS

Davy Francis's work has appeared in *Oink*, *Knockabout Comics*, *The 3-D Zone*, and *Holy Cross* (written by Malachy Coney, from Fantagraphics Books). He's currently working on a Scottish cowboy comic, *Hoof Hearted*. (Page 16)

SIMON FRASER

Simon Fraser is from the Highlands of Scotland, living in Edinburgh, drawing comics set in London, New York, and Bavaria. He'd like to draw comics set in the Highlands of Scotland. (Page 152)

SAMUEL GANA

I was born in 1940 with a comic book under my arm, in Chile. Ever since then I've been filling my notebooks with cartoon characters and stories. Because of this, I was always punished. (Page 79)

JOHN GARCIA

I've drawn for *Open Space* (Marvel), *Medal of Honor* (Dark Horse) and Jim Vance's *Owlhoots* (Kitchen Sink). My finest work was for *Harvey Kurtzman's New Two-Fisted Tales* (Byron Preiss). (Page 31)

JOSÉ LUIS GARCÍA-LÓPEZ

García-López was born in Spain, reared in Argentina, and lives, works, hikes, fishes, and beachcombs in New York. His humble contribution: *Atari Force*, *Deadman*, *Twilight*, *Cinder & Ashe*, and others. (Page 71)

DAVID GARLAND

David produces and hosts wide-ranging music shows on WNYC-FM, the NPR affiliate in New York City. He's active as a composer and performer. This is his first work for a comics publisher. (Page 192)

RICK GEARY

Rick's comics and illustrations have appeared in various magazines, and his work has been collected in four volumes, including *Housebound with Rick Geary* and *Prairie Moon and Other Stories*. (Page 99)

EARL GEIER

Earl Geier has worked professionally since 1989, illustrating role-playing games such as *Battletech*, *Shadowrun*, and *Call of Cthulhu*, with comics work for Dark Horse Comics, Innovation, and Now. (Page 97)

KEITH GIFFEN

Born.
Draws comics.
Wishes he was dead. (Page 132)

SCOTT GILLIS

Scott Gillis moved to New York City in 1977, where he began freelance illustrating and dishwashing. He is a certified hypnotherapist and student of the martial arts, but a peaceful man. (Page 85)

CRAIG GILMORE

Craig Gilmore's specialty is horror and all things strange. He is an illustrator for *White Wolf* and Fasa Games and is also a penciller/inker for DC and Marvel Comics. (Page 188)

DICK GIORDANO

I was born July 20, 1932. The rest, as they say, is ancient history. (Page 95)

TREVOR GORING

Worked on early issues of *2000 AD*, *House of Hammer*, and *Dan Dare*. Went into advertising, moved from England to LA and did film storyboards, and returned to comics with *Pantera* (Malibu). (Page 89)

MARCUS GRAY

Marcus Gray is a Glaswegian who is working on a number of his own comics projects. He drinks large quantities of Guinness and loves the films of Hal Hartley. (Page 44)

JUSTIN GREEN

Justin Green began as an "underground cartoonist" in 1968. Since then, his work has appeared under the disclaimer: "Minors are forbidden to read any further. Put down this publication at once!" (Page 201)

D. ALEXANDER GREGORY

Alexander has worked on *Kilroy Is Here*, *The Twist*, *The Odyssey of Vladimir Illyich*, *Vampire: The Masquerade*, *Predator* for Dark Horse Comics, *Negative Burn*, and too much more. (Page 203)

DAERICK GRÖSS

Best known for his painted comics, Gröss received the Russ Manning Award for *The Vampire Lestat*. He has also done *Forbidden Planet*, *Necroscope*, and *Batman: Two-Face Strikes Twice* (for DC). (Page 18)

REBECCA GUAY

Rebecca's work has appeared in *Cricket Magazine for Children*, Topps's *Star Wars Series II*, and various Marvel and DC Comics. She is currently the regular penciller for DC/Vertigo's *Black Orchid*. (Page 65)

PIA GUERRA

Pia likes to think she can come up with witty comments about herself on demand, but really is much better suited to drawing the pictures. She doesn't wear earrings. (Page 62)

JACKSON GUICE

Jackson Guice and family live on twelve acres in the Smoky Mountains of North Carolina. He claims he has been a comics illustrator since dinosaurs walked the earth. (Page 153)

MIKE HADLEY

Credits include: *Deadline Magazine*, *Toxic*, *Sonic the Hedgehog*, *2000 AD*, *Judge Dredd*, *Rogue Trooper* (as colorist), *Fervent & Lobe*, and *The Future King*. His ambition is to live off royalties. (Page 23)

KIM HAGEN

Kim is from Denmark, where he shares an art studio called "Pinligt Selskab" with eight other artists. His most recent work is for *Negative Burn*, "The Lad Who Wished to Meet Fear." (Page 145)

HAK

HAK has worked for various men's publications (*Screw*, etc.). Living in New Jersey, HAK lives a relatively monastic existence, going out only to obtain food, toilet paper, and more crayons. (Page 91)

BOB HALL

Bob Hall lives in New York City where he has been a theater director, playwright, actor, and cartoonist. He currently writes and draws *Shadowman* for Valiant Comics. (Page 193)

CRAIG HAMILTON

Craig Hamilton hates writing bios; he lives in the Deep South with three cats named Elrod, Paganini, and Ariel, and another human named Jody. Special thanks to Ray Snyder. (Page 184)

ED HANNIGAN

Over the years I've worked at almost every job in comics and done lots of stories for Marvel and DC. I'm really only in it for the free comics. (Page 22)

TONY HARRIS

Penciller, inker, cover painter Tony lives in Georgia with his wife Stacie, and his two dobermen, Natasha and Cleopatra. He's currently pencilling and painting covers on *Starman* (DC). (Page 90)

DANNY HELLMAN

Hail the new dawn! Early next year, Untermensch Hellman will be rocketed to the lunar surface to do battle with Wippy the Two-Headed Death Slarg. Never forget, he gives his life to save us all. (Page 70)

FRED HEMBECK

Fred Hembeck was reborn in the late seventies when he began using himself as a cartoon character to interview and kibbitz with the comic-book superstars he'd followed since childhood. (Page 123)

LEA HERNANDEZ

Has held scuzzy jobs in every work sector, including comics. Non-scuzzy work includes *Predator* and *Dirty Pair*, as well as prose fiction and articles on manga. Favorite saying: "Go limp or this will hurt." (Page 206)

GRAHAM HIGGINS

Graham Higgins regularly receives ten-dollar checks sent on the 10th of the month by perfect strangers who believe it will give him good luck. (Page 117)

JOHN HIGGINS

John Higgins is a pseudonym for John Higgins, a bit-part actor who played Charles Laughton's hump in *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*. (Page 55)

JAMES A. HODGKINS

Stylistically, "The Blind Man" marks a departure from my mainstream work: *Black Canary* and *Team Titans* for DC, and *Immortalis* for Marvel. I've enjoyed drawing it; I hope you enjoy reading it! (Page 138)

ALAN HOPKINS

I moved to Boston in '76 and embarked on an illustration career, but comic-book fever hit me in 1986. My claim to fame to date is drawing *Man-Eating Cow*. (Page 213)

FLOYD HUGHES

Floyd Hughes lives in Red Hook, Brooklyn with his wife Mayleen and daughter Sojourner. He believes all bigots should repent or die painfully. (Page 74)

MICHAEL JANTZE

When Michael draws, he thinks animals can talk and people can reason, that men are flexible and women are reasonable. He obviously doesn't make a lot of money at it. (Page 126)

PHIL JIMENEZ

Phil Jimenez hopes his family and friends know just how much their love, support, and guidance mean to him. (Page 63)

DAVE JOHNSON

Dave Johnson started Kudzu Tech Studio, named after his self-described style as used in *SuperPatriot*. Also did the sales-record-breaking *Chain Gang War* for DC. (Page 137)

LEIF JONES

Leif was raised by moths inside a windmill that was only visible during lightning storms. He lives and works in California, but plans to move closer to the North Pole. (Page 207)

RAFAEL KAYANAN

Rafael is currently drawing *Conan the Adventurer*, adapting Coppola's *Frankenstein* movie for Topps, and inking *Chiaroscuro* for Vertigo. He likes to read, paint, and get into knife fights. (Page 173)

NIGEL KITCHING

I have worked on a wide variety of British comics. Sometimes I write, sometimes I draw, and sometimes, if I'm lucky, I even get to do both. (Page 196)

DAVID G. KLEIN

David is an illustrator of magazines, books, and comics, including: *Frankenstein*, *The Scarlet Letter*, *Darker Than You Think*, *Humanoids*, *Eclipso*, *Batman: Legends of the Dark Knight* #51, and Marvel's 2099 Universe. (Page 121)

BILL KOEB

My work has appeared in *Hellraiser*, *Interface*, *The Hacker Files*, and various magazines including *Blur*, *Processed World* and *Ray Gun*. I'm currently working on *Faultlines* for Vertigo with writer Lee Marrs. (Page 84)

TEDDY KRISTIANSEN

Teddy lives in Copenhagen with his wife, daughter, two cats, and a huge phone bill from working abroad. He hopes to have more time for painting next year. (Page 178)

ALAN KUPPERBERG

Since 1971, New Yorker Alan Kupperberg has drawn *Justice League*, *Firestorm*, *Warlord*, et cetera (for DC Comics), and *Spider-Man*, *Thor*, *The Avengers*, *Captain America*, and others (for Marvel). (Page 129)

NGHIA LAM

Nghia was born in a country that no longer exists. He now lives in the deserts of San Diego, where he enjoys the company of blowfish and blonde women. (Page 12)

ROGER LANGRIDGE

Roger is the cartoonist of Fantagraphics' *Zoot*. His future goals include raising the number of people who have heard of him into three figures. (Page 39)

GREGORY B. LaROCQUE

Lots of super-heroes. (Page 122)

BATTON LASH

Batton Lash is the creator of *Wolf & Byrd*, *Counselors of the Macabre* and the writer of the *Archie/Punisher* crossovers. His cartooning appears in the other Factoid Big Books. (Page 147)

STEVE LEIALOHA

Other legends Steve's worked on include *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* and *The Illustrated Ray Bradbury*, as well as holding down the bass end of *The Seduction of the Innocent*. (Page 19)

MARK LEWIS
Mark Lewis is a longtime comics enthusiast and illustrator, and has contributed to Fantagraphics, Express Publications, and Big Bang Comics. Mark currently makes a living on the *X-Men* cartoon. (Page 202)

VINCENT LOCKE
Vincent Locke has done a few album covers and many comics, including *American Freak*, *Sandman*, *Sandman Mystery Theatre*, and *Deadworld*. When he's not working, he's wishing he was. (Page 103)

LENNIE MACE
Lennie Mace's ballpoint pen masterpieces continue crossing boundaries in his ongoing quest to build an artistic empire. His cartoon debut for DC marks another brick in the wall. (Page 69)

MADELEY
Madeley's first work appeared in Britain's *Weird City*. He illustrated *Flywheel*, *Shyster*, *Flywheel* for BBC, and his strip *Ashes*, co-written by Gavin Inglis, is soon to move onto television. (Page 100)

KEVIN MAGUIRE
Kevin began his career under the watchful eye of Andy Helfer during a two-year stint on *Justice League*. He is currently working on his creator-owned Bravura comic *Strikeback*. (Page 136)

GRAHAM MANLEY
Graham Manley lives and works in Scotland. His work has appeared in *Near Myths*, *Knockabout Comix*, *The Diceman*, *'Max Overload*, many other unexpected places, and Paradox's Big Book series. (Page 216)

KIRK MANLEY
Kirk Manley has wanted to illustrate comics since age eight. He studied under Carmine Infantino at SVA and admires Frank Miller, Steve Rude, Adam Hughes, John Buscema, and John Byrne. (Page 181)

LEE MARRS
Lee is an Emmy award-winning TV art director, a humorist, artist, and a pioneer in the blending of traditional animation and computer graphics. She recently wrote *Zatanna* for DC. (Page 93)

NATHAN MASSENGILL
Nathan is known primarily for his pencilling work at DC (*Wonder Woman*) and Malibu, his watercolor painted work (Raven Publications), and his written work for Caliber Press (*Poets Prosper*). (Page 177)

ROBERT McCALLUM
Robert was born in 1971. He drew for *Electric Soup Humour Mag* while at the Glasgow School of Art. He is currently drawing *Lobo* for DC. (Page 37)

MAC MCGILL
Mac is an editorial cartoonist/illustrator whose work has appeared in many progressive publications. He is a regular contributor to *High Times Magazine* and *World War 3 Illustrated*. (Page 111)

CHRIS McLOUGHLIN
Chris McLoughlin was born 1 November 1971. He was exposed to comics at an early age, but no one pressed charges. (Page 134)

ROBERT McNEILL
Robert McNeill is not what you'd expect. (Page 67)

LINDA MEDLEY
Little Linda would like to be a housewife when she grows up. (Page 212)

JASON MINOR
Name: Jason Temujin Minor
Jason: Hebrew for Joshua, meaning "Jehovah is salvation."
Temujin: Genghis Khan's birth name.
Minor: Originally Bullman, changed in 1369 A.D.
Occupation: Writer/artist (Page 102)

MARK MIRAGLIA
My major influences are EC Comics, Alex Raymond, and Mark Schultz — artists who draw in the heroic adventure genre. My other projects are *Solitaire*, *Green Hornet* and *Green Arrow*. (Page 26)

GABRIEL MORRISSETTE
Gabriel worked on *Doc Savage*, *New Titans*, *Ragman*, and *Melody* for the American market, and the Quebec humor magazines *Anormal*, *Croc*, and *Safarir*. Of course he lives in Montreal. (Page 51)

SCOTT MUSGROVE
Scott's latest work is titled *Thirteen Fat, Russian Sailors With Butcher Knives Strapped to the Bottom of Their Boots Skated the Answers to Delicate Questions Across the Surface of a Frozen Rink of Porpoise Blood*. (Page 175)

TED NAIFEH
Ted is most noted for *The Machine* from Dark Horse's superhero line. He is currently working on a creator-owned book with Epic called *The Exile of Abra Khan*. (Page 211)

MAT NASTOS
Artist and adventurer supreme, now spends much of his quiet time working on *ElfQuest: Blood of Ten Chiefs* for Warp Graphics. (Page 78)

BILL NAYLOR
Bill was reared in captivity on pints of "Wobbly Bob." Current work: this year's *Judge Dredd Annual*, and now DC. "I gotta be dreamin', or is it the 'Wobbly Bob?' Hic!" (Page 113)

MARK A. NELSON
Mark has worked on *Aliens*, *Feud*, *Nightbreed*, *Blood and Shadows*, and *From Pencils to Inks* in *Hero Illustrated*. He lives with his wife, two cats, a dog, and teaches at N.I.U. (Page 49)

JOSH NEUFELD
"Josh" is twenty-six and currently lives in Chicago. He draws comics and editorial illustrations, and he hates writing about himself in the third person. (Page 149)

MARK NEWGARDEN
Mark Newgarden is the real person to whom everything depicted in this book actually happened. He has been blessed with many, many friends. (Page 32)

ART NICHOLS
With a kick in the ass by Neal Adams and great advice from Bob Layton, Art doesn't just ink comics, he also pencils them. Sometimes both at the same time. (Page 30)

KEVIN NOWLAN
Previous work includes *New Mutants*, *Outsiders Annual*, the *Man-Bat Secret Origins*, *Grimwood's Daughter*, and *Batman: Sword of Azrael*. Currently working in obscurity on obscene material for a neo-fascist lunatic. (Page 88)

SHANE OAKLEY
Shane is a rich and successful cartoonist living in Bermuda. He spends his time wrestling sharks and writing his memoirs for a major TV adaptation. (Page 195)

MITCH O'CONNELL
Mitch is an award-winning fine artist whose work has appeared in *National Lampoon*, *Spy*, and *Playboy*. He has also published *Good Taste Gone Bad: The "Art" of Mitch O'Connell*. (Page 163)

MICHAEL AVON OEMING
As a small inking cog in the Marvel machine, I've worked on such titles as *Daredevil* and *The Avengers*. I'm currently drawing *Judge Dredd* for DC. (Page 98)

ROD OLLERENSHAW
After leaving art school, Rod managed to write and draw for Archie Comics and *Felix the Cat*. He enjoys old records and ancient cars. (Page 116)

KEVIN O'NEILL
Kevin co-created *Ro-Busters*, *The A.B.C. Warriors*, and *Nemesis the Warlock* for 2000 AD, and *Metalzoic* for DC. Stints on *Green Lantern Corps*, *Lobo*, and *Bat-Mite*. Best known for co-creation *Marshall Law*. (Page 35)

JOE ORLANDO

A leading writer-editor-designer-cartoonist-illustrator in comics since 1950, Joe is also the Vice-President/Creative Director for DC Comics, and the Associate Publisher of *MAD Magazine*. (Page 139)

TAYYAR OZKAN

Tayyar is a Turkish-born Kurd, living in New York. His artwork has appeared in *World War 3 Illustrated* and *Heavy Metal*, and he is drawing *La Pacifica*, written by Joel Rose and Amos Poe, the first graphic novel in the Paradox Mystery line. (Page 52)

RICHARD PACE

Richard Pace used to draw big people hitting each other, to make money. He still does this, but he's better paid. (Page 92)

ANDREW PAQUETTE

Andrew Paquette, born 1965, married 1987, daughter 1992. Vegan diet since 1984 (and sick of getting advice about it). Work has appeared in *Hellraiser/Night Breed*. Co-creator/penciller of *Harsh Realm*. (Page 180)

RICK PARKER

Rick is the artist for *MTV's Beavis and Butt-Head* comic book from Marvel. Parker's comic strip *The Bossmen* and weekly cartoon *The Bullpen Bullseye* were also published by Marvel. (Page 11)

MIKE PAROBECK

Mike has worked on *El Diablo*, *The Fly*, *Justice Society of America*, and is presently working on *The Batman Adventures* and *Superman and Batman Magazine*. (Page 159)

PAUL PEART

Paul has worked like a dog on several titles, including *Slaughterbowl*, *Judge Dredd*, and *Kid Eternity*, as well as several personal projects, while being big, brown and beautiful! (Page 110)

ANDREW PEPOY

Andrew has inked *Green Lantern* and *Iron Man*, is currently inking Roger Zelazny's *The Guns of Avalon* for Byron Preiss/DC Comics, and pencilling *G-8 and His Battle Aces* for Millennium. (Page 140)

OMAHA PÉREZ

Omaha Pérez (yes, that's his real name) is twenty-three. Any mention to him of a certain "Cat Dancer" and he will be forced to ignore you. (Page 66)

ERIC PETERSON

Eric's illustration credits include painting over 150 paperback covers. His most recent work in comics was nine painted cards for the *Superman: Forged in Steel* set. (Page 28)

JOE PHILLIPS

In nine years I've done over fifty issues and close to 120 covers and cards. Titles include: *Ex-Mutants*, *Speed Racer*, *Justice League*, *Fantastic Four*, and *Spider-Man*. Upcoming project: *The Heretic* from Dark Horse. (Page 60)

TOBY PHILP

These are a few of my favorite things: the human form, slick imagery, real artists, natural beauty, reliable friends, fax machines, sex, drugs, and blasphemy. (Page 80)

HOWARD PORTER

I work on *The Ray*. I like to snack on croutons. Oh yeah, I'm married to Heather. (Page 125)

GEORGE PRATT

George's graphic novel *Enemy Ace: War Idyll* is on the required reading list at West Point. He is currently working on *See You in Hell*, *Blind Boy! A Tale of the Blues*. (Page 68)

GORDON PURCELL

Credits include *Star Trek: The Next Generation/Deep Space Nine* crossover for DC/Malibu and the *Silver Sable* series for Marvel. Gordon lives with his wife Debra and a baby on the way. (Page 205)

BRIAN QUINN

This begins Brian's wonderful career in comics. After receiving his BA in fine art at Rutgers he decided to seek out a career that would actually pay the bills, but ended up here. (Page 112)

FRANK QUITELY

Born in Glasgow, Scotland 1968. Unsuccessful spell in Glasgow School of Art. Dabbled in small press while freelancing for several years. Became full-time comic artist in early 1993. (Page 36)

RICHARD PIERS RAYNER

Russ Manning Award-winner for Most Promising Newcomer in 1989, Richard has illustrated *Dr. Fate*, *L.E.G.I.O.N.* '90, *Swamp Thing* and *Hellblazer*. He is also drawing *Road to Perdition*, a graphic novel in the Paradox Mystery line, written by Max Allan Collins. (Page 13)

TRINA ROBBINS

Trina produced the first all-woman comic, *It Ain't Me Babe*, in 1970. Her latest projects are the book *A Century of Women Cartoonists* and the first CD-ROM for girls, *Hawaii High*. (Page 34)

DARICK ROBERTSON

Darick has pencilled many projects for DC, Marvel, and Malibu, including *Ripfire*, *Justice League*, *New Warriors*, *Wolverine*, *Cable* and *Spider-Man*. He is also embarking on a writing career. (Page 82)

DENIS RODIER

Denis's work was seen on the covers of *The Demon* and *Newstime Magazine*. He is currently inking a *Star Wars* mini-series for Dark Horse Comics and doing the finishes on *Action Comics*. (Page 161)

JAMES ROMBERGER

James's graphic novels include *Seven Miles a Second* with David Wojnarowicz, and *Ground Zero* with Marguerite Van Cook. His drawings are in many private and museum collections. (Page 96)

JOE RUBINSTEIN

I was born with a brush in one hand and a pen in the other. I hope to die having just finished inking a comic book faster than the Inky-poo — proving that no machine can beat a human. (Page 215)

GREG RUTH

After exiting the witness relocation program, Greg roamed across the southwest portion of Texas for 47 years before residing in the men's bathroom at the Dairy Queen outside of Houston. (Page 56)

TIM SALE

Tim is the artist on *Deathblow: Big Guns Guy*, and the *Legends of the Dark Knight* Halloween Specials. He lives in Seattle with his lovely dogs Hotspur and Shelby. (Page 142)

ADRIAN SALMON

Adrian's first professional commission was *Judge Karyn* in *Judge Dredd: The Megazine*. At present he is drawing her second series. Future projects include *The Cybermen* for *Doctor Who Magazine*. (Page 105)

ZINA SAUNDERS

Zina Saunders's illustrations have been used in advertising, theater posters, books, software, videocassette covers, and in the *Star Wars* trading card series. (Page 135)

TRISTAN SCHANE

Tristan Schane was born in Brooklyn, New York, October 1968. (Page 29)

CHRISTOPHER SCHENK

Thirty-one-year-old stud muffin. First job was assisting Mark Bodé drawing *Miami Mice*. (Ouch!) Recently did *Enemy* for Dark Horse. Enjoys espresso, landscape painting, espresso, R&B, and espresso. (Page 187)

VAL SEMEIKS

Val Semeiks is the current penciller of the *Lobo* monthly. Started in 1986 on *King Kull* and *Conan* for Marvel. Moved on to DC to draw *The Demon* and other projects. (Page 45)

ERIC SHANOWER

Eric's work has appeared in U.S. and European comics, in books, and on TV. He is best known for his *Oz* graphic novels. He lives in Bloomfield, NJ. (Page 179)

SCOTT SHAW!

An award-winning cartoonist whose work has spanned comic books (*Captain Carrot and his Amazing Zoo Crew!*), animation (*The Completely Mental Misadventures of Ed Grimley*), and advertising (Post Pebbles Cereal). (Page 48)

WILL SIMPSON

Will worked for 2000 AD on *Chopper*, *Judge Dredd*, and *Rogue Trooper*. He worked on DC's *Hellblazer*, and then on *Aliens: Rogue* for Dark Horse. His most recent work is *Vamps* for DC/Vertigo. (Page 131)

PATRICK SINCLAIR

Patrick Melvin Sinclair has been in the business for 30 years and never had a heart attack. His past work has mostly appeared in British juvenile publications. (Page 43)

CIARAN SLAVIN

Ciaran is editor and commander of his own non-commercial comics company, Decay Comics. He is self-taught in art, a one-man maelstrom of comics ideas and stories. (Page 14)

BOB SMITH

Born: Aberdeen, Washington, 1951. Art education: BFA, Western Washington State University, 1974. I've been inking comics for DC since 1975. About every ten years, Andy Helfer lets me pencil something. (Page 54)

ROBIN SMITH

Robin was the art director for 2000 AD and an artist on *Judge Dredd*. He also illustrated *Bogie Man*. Robin is drawing *Green Candles*, a graphic novel in the Paradox Mystery line. (Page 146)

NED SONNTAG

Since 1985 Ned has been the Betty Boop licensing artist for King Features and chief illustrator for *Outlaw Biker* and *Dimensions*, a fantasy/personals 'zine for fat women and admirers. (Page 199)

JOE STATON

Joe has worked for Marvel on *The Incredible Hulk*, and for DC illustrating *Superman*, *Batman*, *Plastic Man*, *Green Lantern*, and many others. Joe is the artist on *Family Man*, a graphic novel written by Jerome Charyn for the Paradox Mystery line. (Page 144)

ALEC STEVENS

Alec Stevens almost enjoys music more than art. He cites Bela Bartok, Stravinsky, Miles Davis, Coltrane, early Zappa/*Mothers*, Nick Drake, *Focus*, *Glasssharp*, and Jukka Tolonen as favorites. (Page 158)

LESLIE STERNBERGH

It was a dark and stormy night when Leslie was born. Now she draws comix. See the *Twisted Sisters* collections for more of her work. She lives in New York. (Page 214)

JIM SULLIVAN

Jim has been published in Pacific Comics' *Alien Worlds*, Eclipse's *Alien Encounters*, and Topps' *Cadillacs and Dinosaurs*. Early inspirations include DC Silver Age greats Dick Sprang, Curt Swan, and Ramona Boone. (Page 170)

SÉAN TAGGART

Known for his "Ichabod's Magic Fairyland" theme parks dotted all about South America, Sean takes a crack at the North American marketplace with this piece. (Page 73)

BRAD TEARE

In addition to creating and publishing the comic *Cypher*, Teare has created art for *The New York Times*, as well as covers for books by James Michener and Ann Tyler. (Page 57)

TY TEMPLETON

Ty "The Guy" Templeton has worked on *Superman*, *Batman*, *Spider-Man*, *X-Men*, *Ren and Stimpy*, and his personal favorite, *Mad Dog*. He lives with Keiren, their son Kellam, and three cats. (Page 185)

GREG THEAKSTON

Greg has been working in comics since 1970. He's also known for his work bleaching classic comics, his work at *Mad Magazine*, and as editor/publisher of *The Betty Pages*. (Page 61)

JAMIE TOLAGSON

Mr. Tolagson (a lean, strapping 7' 2", 215 lbs.) believes that his large form distracts people from his true artistic nature. Jamie now lives in Phuket, Thailand with his four lovable dobermen. (Page 42)

CHAS TRUOG

Chas is known for his work on DC's *Animal Man* and is currently at work on *Chiaroscuro*, a ten-issue series for Vertigo due out in the summer of '95. (Page 210)

COLIN UPTON

After producing over sixty minicomics, Colin self-published his first *Big Thing* comic book in 1990. Four more *Big Things* have been published by Fantagraphics Books and another by Aeon Press. (Page 156)

JOHN VAN FLEET

Look for *Shadows Fall* for Halloween '94, a six-part Vertigo book written by John Ney Rieber. (Page 151)

ALEX WALD

A former teenage blues legend and later First Comics art director, Alex has been published in *American Splendor*, *The Comics Journal*, *Highball*, *Monster International*, and *Secret Agent Man*. (Page 120)

ALAN WEISS

Alan has worked for DC, Marvel, and Defiant, and has split his time between comics and advertising. He is the creator of *War Dancer* for Defiant, which he co-writes and draws. (Page 128)

ANDREW WENDEL

Former portraitist for *The New Yorker*, fueled by passions for music, cycling, and the bizarre, Andrew here makes his DC/Paradox debut. He is currently employed by a rival company. (Page 77)

ART WETHERELL

Can't think of anything to write. Check out his *Indiana Jones* book from Dark Horse Comics. (Page 38)

SHANE WHITE

I like vegetables. I like bald phat guys in jock straps with suspenders. I like smoking midgets and tough women named bitch. White trash, too. All these things inspire me! (Page 106)

KEITH S. WILSON

Keith does not believe in bios. (Page 25)

KENT WILLIAMS

Born 1962. Other books: *Tell Me, Dark*; *Wolverine: Killing*; *Meltdown*; *Blood: A Tale*; *Kent Williams: Drawings and Monotypes*. (Page 172)

GLENN WONG

I work as both a comic book artist (*The Young Cynics Club*) and a toy sculptor (action figures). My goals are world domination and understanding the Tao. (Page 127)

JEFF WONG

Jeff Wong is a long, lanky gad-about, looking to meet chicks. (Page 157)

BILL WRAY

Bill has worked as a penciller, inker, and colorist. He is currently directing cartoons for *The Ren and Stimpy Show* and still wondering why *Mad Magazine* won't hire him. (Page 101)

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